

Overseas Adventure Travel®

THE LEADER IN CUSTOMIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide®



Cruising the Adriatic: Croatia & Montenegro
2026

Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will enjoy the thrill of off-the-beaten-path discovery coupled with the convenience of unpacking just once. Aboard our privately owned small ship, you will visit lesser-known ports that larger vessels cannot access—and enjoy intimate interactions with local people in your small group of no more than 25 travelers. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation.

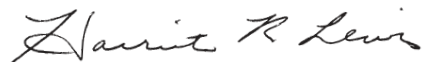
But your personal connections are not limited to your time on land—while onboard, you will enjoy the warm hospitality provided by our friendly, English-speaking crew, as well as the camaraderie of your fellow American travelers. Whether you travel with a partner, sister, friend, or independently, you will feel welcomed and included throughout your journey. And if you do choose to travel solo, you will enjoy an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the, like the **87% of our travelers who customize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis

Chair

Overseas Adventure Travel

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M/V Athena, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Cruising the Adriatic: Croatia & Montenegro Small Ship Adventure

Croatia: Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Dubrovnik, Korcula | **Montenegro:** Kotor

Small groups of no more than 25 travelers, guaranteed

16 days starting from \$4,195

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE** or **\$995**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/mwt2026pricing

Discover the lush islands and magnificent walled cities of Croatia and Montenegro as you cruise for ten nights aboard the **50-passenger M/V Artemis** or **M/V Athena** during the best time of year—when the weather's mild and the summer crowds are thinning out. From Zagreb to Zadar, and Kotor to Korcula, this journey will linger in your memory like a gentle Adriatic breeze.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 14 nights accommodation, including 10 nights aboard our privately owned 50-passenger M/V Artemis or M/V Athena
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- 37 meals: 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 12 dinners—including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner—plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks
- 10 guided tours and cultural experiences
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- All port charges
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Depart U.S.
2-3	Zagreb, Croatia
4	Zadar • Embark ship
5-7	Split • Hvar
8-9	Dubrovnik
10-11	Kotor • Korcula
12-13	Sibenik
14-15	Disembark ship • Zagreb
16	Return to U.S.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Slovenia: Ljubljana's Old World Charm

PRE-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$995**

Bosnia & Herzegovina: The Irrepressible Spirit of Sarajevo

POST-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$995**

ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Ljubljana** before your Slovenia pre-trip extension from **\$160** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Zagreb** before your main adventure from **\$160** per room, per night

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

Pacing: 15 days, with 10 nights aboard a 50-passenger small ship, and two 2-night stays in Zagreb

Physical requirements: Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs and days of possible rough seas requiring good agility, balance, and strength

Flight time: Travel time will be 11-21 hours and will most likely have one connection

View all physical requirements at www.oattravel.com/mwt

THE ADRIATIC: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

Unbeatable Value: Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

People-to-People Experiences: Travel off the beaten path to a local farmhouse in Varazdin, where you'll chat with the farmer about the inner workings of the property and help prepare a traditional snack. Plus, enjoy our **Day in the Life** experience when you travel to a village in the Croatian countryside to immerse yourself in the day-to-day routines of the people who call this region home.

O.A.T. Exclusives: We'll learn about a **Controversial Topic** when we meet a woman who defied gender roles to stay behind and help her fellow citizens survive the brutal siege of Dubrovnik during the Croatian War of Independence. We'll also go beyond the major cities to Croatia's remote gems like the small port of Hvar and the countryside Gromaca village, where you'll meet village residents and learn more about their way of life during a **Home-Hosted Dinner** with a local family.

Cruising the Adriatic: Croatia & Montenegro

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

4 nights in *Slovenia: Ljubljana's Old World Charm*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Day 3 Explore Ljubljana

Day 4 Ljubljana • Optional Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle tour

Day 5 Ljubljana • Optional Lake Bled tour

Day 6 Ljubljana • Zagreb, Croatia • Join main adventure

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly overnight from the U.S. to Zagreb, Croatia.

Day 2 Arrive Zagreb, Croatia

- Destination: Zagreb
- Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik or similar

Morning/Afternoon: Upon arrival in Zagreb, you'll be met at the airport by an O.A.T. representative. He or she will assist with your transfer to your hotel, where you'll join travelers who took the *Slovenia: Ljubljana's Old World Charm* pre-trip extension, as well as those who arrived early in Zagreb.

Later this afternoon, a short orientation walk in the vicinity of the hotel—led by your Trip Experience Leader—will further help you get your bearings.

Dinner: On your own this evening. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to provide suggestions.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. This might be a good time to adjust to the time difference by relaxing in the hotel's public areas or in your room.

Day 3 Explore Zagreb • Welcome Dinner

- Destination: Zagreb
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Following a Welcome Briefing with your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers, you'll set out on a city tour of Zagreb, beginning with a short walk to Ban Jelacic Square (*Trg Bana Jelacica*), the city's hub. Like many medieval cities, Zagreb includes an Upper and Lower Town, and your tour takes in many of the landmarks of the medieval Upper Town (*Gornji Grad*), including Zagreb Cathedral, the bustling Dolac market, Gric tunnel, the stone gates, St. Mark's Church, and Lotrscak Tower.

At the conclusion of your tour, the rest of the afternoon is yours to explore the city. You might continue delving into the Upper Town, a warren of alleyways lined with baroque architecture.

Lunch: On your own—the city center brims with cafés and restaurants to choose from. You may seek out a popular local dish like *strukli*, which is a cottage cheese- and sour cream-stuffed pastry.

Afternoon: Free to continue your independent exploration. Perhaps you'll visit the Lower Town (*Donji Grad*), whose many attractions include the *Zelena Potkova* (Green Horseshoe) with its wide avenues and inviting public squares.

Dinner: Toast to the discoveries ahead, and dine on regional specialties, during your Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: Following dinner, the remainder of the evening is free for you to explore at your own pace. With its bohemian cafés, Tkalciceva Street is a good place to enjoy the city's nightlife. Or, if you prefer the Lower Town, you might check out the bars and nightclubs set between Trg Petra Preradovića and Bogovićeve.

Day 4 Zagreb • Explore Zadar • Embark ship

- Destination: Zadar
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Activity Note: Today's transfer to Zadar and your ship will take about 4.5 hours. There will be comfort stops as needed en route. Also, please note that agility will be required to board the M/V *Athena*. When embarking your small ship, keep in mind that the gangplank may be steep, and elevators are not available on

board. This Small Ship Adventure includes long stretches of sailing, where rough sea conditions are possible.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Travel overland toward the Adriatic coast to meet your small ship in Zadar, one of Croatia's true hidden jewels.

Upon arrival at the dock, you'll embark the M/V *Athena*, our privately owned, 50-passenger small ship that will be your home for the next ten nights. The ship is staffed by a friendly, English-speaking crew who will be eager to welcome you aboard and show you to your room.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: After lunch, you'll have time to settle into your cabin and get acquainted with the ship's inviting common areas. The lounge is equipped with cozy leather couches and chairs and a specialty coffee-maker, and the adjacent bar serves complimentary house beer, house wine, and soft drinks throughout the day. A topside Sun Deck features ample wooden deck chairs for admiring the scenery (weather permitting).

Late this afternoon, join your fellow travelers on a walking tour of Zadar. As you stroll through its peninsular Old Town, you'll Roman and Venetian ruins, as well as a few hidden architectural surprises.

After returning to the ship, your Captain will conduct a safety briefing and introduce you to your ship's welcoming crew. Then, your Trip Experience Leader will conduct a Port Talk to acquaint you with the discoveries that await tomorrow.

Dinner: Enjoy a Welcome Drink with your fellow travelers, followed by your Captain's Welcome Dinner in the ship's dining room. As with all the dinners during your cruise, you are free to sit at whichever table you please.

Evening: Your ship docks in Zadar overnight. After dinner, you may choose to relax in the lounge, take a comfortable seat on the Sun Deck and watch the twinkling of the city lights, or retire to your cabin. Or you might visit one of Zadar's charming harborside cafés for a glass of *maraschino*, a liqueur distilled from local *marasca* cherries—a centuries-old Zadar tradition.

Day 5 Zadar • A Day in the Life of a Croatian village

- Destination: Zadar
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Activity Note: Travelers will enjoy one of two **A Day in the Life** experiences today. Both activities are sure to offer equally memorable insights into day-to-day rural Croatian life

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: We'll split into two groups to begin our **NEW A Day in the Life** experience in one of two Croatian villages. The first group will travel to the village of Sopot, while the second will head to the agricultural estate in the Ravni Kotari countryside. Travelers in the second group will explore in the company of the estate's owner and help out with hands-on activities, such as planting seeds, watering crops, making wine, and preparing lunch in the kitchen.

Those who visit Sopot will be hosted by a family that owns a small farm. We'll learn about the farm's history and enjoy a tour that will reveal the diversity of products that are produced

here. We may have the opportunity to try our hands at one of the day's chores—perhaps tending livestock, working in the fields, helping out in the on-site workshop, or preparing food for lunch.

Lunch: After working up an appetite, sit down at the family table to enjoy a farm-fresh lunch together.

Afternoon: Following lunch, we'll set off on a short stroll around the village with one of our hosts. Sopot is a small, tightly-knit community of about 300 people; our host will happily introduce us to his or her neighbors as we walk, offering a firsthand view of what life is like in the Croatian countryside.

We'll return to our ship in the mid-afternoon and enjoy some free time before reconvening for a Croatian language lesson led by your Trip Experience Leader.

Then your Trip Experience Leader will deliver the first in a series of nightly Port Talks. These informative discussions will give you an overview of the following day's itinerary and prepare you for the destination ahead.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: You may want to relax in the lounge this evening. Your ship lifts anchor late this evening and begins its voyage to Split.

Day 6 Explore Split

- Destination: Split
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Set out for a walking tour of Split's Old Town with a local guide. You'll discover the Imperial Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. This UNESCO World Heritage Site

is the greatest Roman ruin in southeastern Europe. Built like a fortress with walls 590 feet by 705 feet, the palace was occupied by the Emperor Diocletian from AD 300–313.

The medieval town of Split took shape within the palace walls; Diocletian's Temple of Jupiter was converted into a Christian baptistery and his mausoleum became a cathedral. The entire old section of Split, with the palace as its centerpiece, is a virtual open-air museum with the city's contemporary life bustling through it, as you'll discover.

When your tour ends, your small group will take a half-hour stroll along the lovely Riva, the city's seaside promenade, before making independent discoveries. Perhaps you'll hear your footsteps resounding on the marble tiles of Pjaca Square, known locally as the People's Square. Here, you can visit the Gothic Old Town Hall and check the time on the city's ancient clock. Or return to the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, Diocletian's mausoleum and the city's oldest building.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: The afternoon is yours to continue pursuing your own interests in Split. Take in panoramic views of the city and the Adriatic beyond from atop the bell tower. Browse the stone carvings, jewelry, armor, and other exhibits of the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments, or admire the sculptures and other artwork by a famous Croatian native son at the Ivan Mestrovic Gallery. Or join the locals on a stroll through Strossmayer's Garden, a public park whose centerpiece is a beautiful fountain.

Prior to dinner, your Trip Experience Leader will conduct their daily Port Talk.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free to enjoy the ship's amenities.

Day 7 Explore Hvar & Vrboska • Dubrovnik

- Destination: Hvar
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Go ashore to discover the island of Hvar. Occupied since at least 3500 BC, beautiful Hvar has been ruled variously by the Greeks, Romans, Ottomans, Austrians, and French, without ever losing its character as a place of fresh fish, wild herbs, and verdant vineyards. With warm summers, mild winters, and 7.7 sunlight in an average day, it is arguably the sunniest spot in Europe.

On arrival in Hvar town, embark on a brief orientation walk with a local guide. Then, enjoy time to explore the town on your own. One popular activity is climbing the hillside to the city's ancient fortress. Experience the Venetian flavor that reflects Hvar's long history of rule by that city-state as you stroll its picturesque streets. Or watch the world go by from a sidewalk café.

Late this morning, you'll drive to the quaint seaside village of Vrboska, which lies in a picturesque cove surrounded by pinewood forests and lovely beaches. Upon arrival, take a short walk with a local guide through the charming town, ending at a small, family-owned winery nearby. Here, you'll meet with the owner who will explain the history of her family business and what her typical routine entails throughout the year. After, enjoy a tasting of some of the varieties that are cultivated here.

The morning's discoveries conclude with a scenic bus ride back to our ship through this luxuriantly green island, known for its aromatic patches of lavender, rosemary, and heather at certain times of the year.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Following lunch, your ship charts a course toward Dubrovnik. As you sail, you might catch up on email or your travel journal, engage your fellow travelers in conversation, open a book in the comfort of a soft chair, or watch as the beautiful Croatian coastline stretches before your eyes from the Sun Deck.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Free to enjoy the ship's amenities.

Day 8 Explore Dubrovnik • Controversial Topic: The siege of Dubrovnik • Gromaca village • Home-Hosted Dinner

- Destination: Dubrovnik
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: With its old section, the *Stari Grad*, surrounded entirely by white stone walls, Dubrovnik gleams like the proverbial City on a Hill. Regarded today as one of the world's most exquisite walled cities, Dubrovnik's character reflects its storied past as an independent city-state that rivaled Venice. Also known by its Latin name, Ragusa, this was a fortress city that served as the base for a fleet of ships that carried trade between much of Europe and the Middle East. The city-state's period of autonomy extended from 1358 to 1808. In the early 1990s, some of Dubrovnik's historic sites sustained damage during the Balkan conflicts, but the city has been peaceful for more than 20 years and largely restored under UNESCO

supervision. This restoration work has been supported with a donation from Grand Circle Foundation.

After our tour concludes, you'll meet a local woman for a conversation about a **Controversial Topic**: the role of women during the siege of Dubrovnik.

When the Yugoslav People's Army began its bombardment of Dubrovnik on October 1, 1991, local and foreign leaders reacted with an old-fashioned instinct: Get the women and children out first. Many women, like the one we'll meet today, refused to be treated as helpless victims, knowing they had as much to offer their beloved homeland as their male compatriots. Together, they made the hard choice to defy the chorus of voices pressuring them to leave and stayed behind, putting their lives at risk to render aid and support, and starting a rebellion against Croatian gender norms whose effects can still be felt today.

During this conversation, you'll hear about our speaker's experience during the siege, and learn how the women's involvement in the conflict impacted their standing in Croatian society.

Then, the rest of the morning is free. Perhaps you'll stroll the Stradun, the pedestrian-only main street through the heart of the Old Town, and admire the ornate Onofrio's Fountain.

Lunch: Onboard the ship. Or you may stay in Dubrovnik and enjoy one of the city's many cafés at your own expense.

Afternoon: Relax onboard this afternoon, or continue your exploration of Dubrovnik. You might take in a bird's-eye view of the city on a cable car ride. Or visit some of Dubrovnik's hidden museums, such as the state archives at Sponza Palace, a 16th-century former customs house and mint.

Dinner: Drive to Gromaca, a village of around 150 people near Dubrovnik where you'll split into smaller groups and join a local family for a **Home-Hosted Dinner**.

Our hosts hail from a variety of working- or middle-class backgrounds, and multiple generations of the family might be present during our meal, offering a broad view of village life in Croatia. Long-term residents may also be able to offer their perspective of what life here was like during wartime in the 1990s—Gromaca was pillaged by the Yugoslav People's Army during that conflict.

You'll also enjoy a taste of authentic home-cooked Croatian cuisine as we share a typical meal that our host family would enjoy in their day-to-day lives. We might enjoy vegetable soup, prepared with locally grown garden-fresh crops, followed by a traditional dish like *sporki makaruli* (colloquially known as "dirty macaroni"), a meat and pasta dish historically enjoyed by the servants of Dubrovnik's aristocracy. For dessert, you might get a taste of *rozata*, a cold custard crème dessert flavored with *rozulin*, an aromatic liqueur made from roses.

Evening: Return to your ship late this evening, where you're free to do as you please.

Day 9 Dubrovnik • Optional Konavle tour

- Destination: Dubrovnik
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Free to do as you please. If you prefer, you may spend the day pursuing your own interests in Dubrovnik. Perhaps you'll head to the beach. Banje Beach is located within walking distance of the Ploce Gate to the Old

Town. Or venture north of the Old Town along the Vlaha Bukovca to Sveti Jakov, a beautiful and less crowded beach with golden sands.

Or, you might choose to join an optional tour to the Konavle region of Croatia alongside your Trip Experience Leader. In this bucolic landscape of mountains, vineyards, and orchards, you'll glimpse local everyday life as you visit a silk workshop, an olive oil mill, and a family farm. Your optional tour begins at a silk factory, where you'll gain insights into the region's textile history and traditional clothing styles, and even try your hand at silk production and embroidery—if you wish. Then, you'll meet with a local to learn about traditional techniques used in producing olive oil.

Lunch: For travelers on the optional tour, a farm-fresh lunch will be included, followed by a traditional music performance. Travelers who choose independent explorations can gather for lunch onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Travelers on the Konavle region optional tour begin their transfer back to the ship.

Travelers on the Konavle region optional tour will make their way back to the ship after lunch. Travelers who didn't take the optional tour can continue exploring Dubrovnik independently.

Later this afternoon, gather in the lounge for today's Port Talk with our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Your Trip Experience Leader can offer suggestions for enjoying the nightlife of the city. Or spend the evening relaxing on board.

Day 10 Dubrovnik • Explore Kotor, Montenegro • Our Lady of the Rocks

- Destination: Kotor
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Enjoy sparkling Adriatic views this morning as your ship cruises to Croatia's southern neighbor, Montenegro, a small Mediterranean country at the foot of the Balkan mountain range. Your destination is Kotor, a picturesque walled city. As your small ship sails this historic waterway, soak in the spectacular views of the steep, verdant slopes reflecting in the pristine water below.

As we cruise, we'll also enjoy a brief discussion with our Trip Experience Leader that reveals Kotor's turbulent history as a strategic port that has been variously ruled over the centuries by Bulgaria, Serbia, the Ottoman Empire, the Venetian Republic, Napoleon's French Empire, and Austria-Hungary. Upon arrival in Kotor, we'll dock right in the heart of town—something larger ships cannot do.

In the Middle Ages, Kotor was a walled city and an important artistic and commercial center, with well-known schools of masonry and iconography. During our walking tour, we'll admire the architectural splendor as we explore the *Stari Grad* (Old Town). The remainder of the morning is yours to explore independently.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Following lunch, we'll drive to Perast. There, we'll take a small boat to visit the baroque Our Lady of the Rocks shrine on a man-made islet. The shrine contains 68 paintings by local 17th-century artist Tripo

Kokolja, while its greatest treasure is the icon of Our Lady of the Rocks, painted by the Dubrovnik artist Lovro Marinov Dobricevic.

After returning to our ship, we'll sit down for a Port Talk with our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Perhaps you'll relax in the lounge or gaze at the night sky from the Sun Deck as our ship sets sail for Korcula.

Day 11 Explore Korcula, Croatia • Klapa singing demonstration

- Destination: Korcula
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Today, you'll discover Korcula—the largest island in an archipelago of 48 and the site of a picturesque medieval town. You'll soak up the character of the city on a walking tour with your Trip Experience Leader. Then call on the spot believed by many historians to have been Marco Polo's birthplace, where one stone wall of his original house remains.

The next highlight of your tour is St. Mark's Cathedral on the main square. Here, you'll learn about the historical importance of the Roman Catholic Church in Korcula. Admire the church's detailed Romanesque portal by Bonino of Milano depicting Adam and Eve on either side and St. Mark perched at the top. Inside the cathedral, you'll see a 16th-century painting by the master Tintoretto above the main altar. Even more treasures await as you visit the Bishop's Treasury—a sketch by Da Vinci, drawings by Raphael, and paintings by Italian masters like Carpaccio are standouts.

Following your tour, you will be free to explore Korcula on your own. You might spend some time at the Town Museum, set in a 16th-century palace. Or you can view the exhibits at the Memorial Collection of Maksimilijan Vanka on the waterfront nearby.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: After lunch, you are free to return to Korcula to continue your explorations. You might revisit the medieval streets of Korcula Town, or climb Revelin Tower for stunning views of the Old Town and the sea.

Later this afternoon, gather with your fellow travelers for a Port Talk.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Dinner will be followed by a demonstration of *klapa* singing. This a cappella style is an informal tradition in which friends gather to sing in four-part harmony, and is perhaps the most definitive of all Croatian music forms.

Day 12 Explore Sibenik

- Destination: Sibenik
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Activity Note: Today's itinerary includes a moderately active, two-hour walking tour along narrow, cobbled streets with a few steps and some uneven surfaces.

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: In the pre-dawn hours, your ship sails to the ancient port of Sibenik. Located in one of the Adriatic's most naturally protected harbors, this hillside city fans out like an amphitheater and reflects the elegance of late-Middle Ages architecture.

Upon arrival, you'll set out with your Trip Experience Leader for a walking tour, revealing the city's highlights, such as the Cathedral of St. James—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built completely of limestone and marble in the Gothic and Renaissance styles, its construction lasted from 1431 until its completion in 1536. Its impressively detailed stone sculptures include 71 human faces—believed to represent local Sibenik residents—carved into the cathedral's outer sides. You'll also pass landmarks like the monument of Peter Krešimir IV, the ruins of the old city wall, and more.

Following your tour, you'll have free time to make your own discoveries before returning to the ship.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax on board or return to Sibenik for further exploration. Perhaps you'll enjoy local specialties at one of the many lively cafés lining the Dolac quarter in the city center. Or, for a change of pace, you might visit the Sibenik City Museum.

Your Trip Experience Leader's Port Talk occurs prior to dinner.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Your ship remains moored at Sibenik overnight, and you are welcome to go back ashore to explore the city's bars and cafés, if you wish. Or you may relax in the lounge or watch a movie on your cabin's flat-screen TV.

Day 13 Sibenik • Optional Krka Falls tour • Captain's Farewell Dinner

- Destination: Sibenik
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Artemis* or M/V *Athena*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: You are welcome to join an optional tour to Krka Falls, home to a series of cascading waterfalls that is one of Croatia's great natural wonders. Over millennia, the Krka River has carved canyons into the surrounding limestone of the Dinara Mountains, creating a spectacular landscape where you'll view the river's waterfalls cascading over and around lush, dense vegetation. You'll also explore the surrounding Krka National Park, home to abundant indigenous flora and fauna, including more than 200 bird species. It's a memorable excursion to one of Croatia's most pristine locales.

For those not on the optional tour, you may spend more time exploring Sibenik on your own.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Travelers who joined the optional tour this morning return to Sibenik. The afternoon is at leisure. The Renaissance Rector's Palace houses the Civic Museum, brimming with sculptures, coins, and other ancient artifacts. Admire the Renaissance architecture of the Town Hall. View the paintings that line the walls of the Church of St. Francis. Or enjoy the views and the lively activity along Banj Beach.

Today's Port Talk will be held prior to dinner.

Dinner: Gather for your Captain's Farewell Dinner, featuring a special menu, a gala ambiance, and many memories to share with

your small group. While the dress code remains relaxed and smart casual, some travelers opt to wear a day dress or slacks to this event.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. You might take advantage of this last opportunity to enjoy the ship's amenities and begin gathering your belongings. You'll begin to sail for Zadar late this evening.

Day 14 Disembark ship • Zadar • Zagreb

- Destination: Zagreb
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik or similar

Activity Note: Today's itinerary features an overland transfer of about four hours, with a few stops en route.

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: You'll awake with your ship docked in Zadar this morning, where you'll bid farewell to your ship's crew, disembark with your luggage, and begin your transfer to Zagreb. Upon arrival, we'll check into the hotel and receive room assignments.

Lunch: On your own—there are multiple options in your hotel's neighborhood. Perhaps you'll try a local favorite, turkey with *mlinci* (baked noodles).

Afternoon: Take advantage of free time to make your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll visit the National Museum of Modern Art to peruse renowned galleries and exhibits. Or visit Mirogoj cemetery, a Zagreb highlight. Because it is owned by the city rather than a church, this turn-of-the-20th-century memorial park hosts the remains of people of all faiths—or no faith at all. Admire the lovely arches and cupolas as you stroll the final resting place of many of the nation's most celebrated residents.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: To experience the nightlife of Zagreb's Lower Town, you might check out the bars and nightclubs set between Trg Petra Preradovica and Bogoviceva. Or, relax at the hotel's spa and sauna.

Day 15 Zagreb • Varaždin • Farewell Lunch at a family-owned estate

- Destination: Varaždin
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel Dubrovnik or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll drive into the Croatian countryside to Varaždin, a beautifully preserved Baroque city. For centuries, this was the home of several aristocratic families, who built magnificent palaces and churches that continue to grace the city today. Upon arrival, you will then take a short walk to the city's centerpiece: its castle. Surrounded by a moat and entered via drawbridge, it is now a museum featuring antique furniture from different eras. Begun in the twelfth century, the castle was still used as a seat of local government until 1925, and is set in a park with striking landscaping.

Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a guided tour, followed by free time to roam the streets and admire the Baroque architecture of this area.

Prior to lunch, your small group will make your way to a local farmhouse to gain a deeper understanding of rural life in Croatia.

Lunch: Savor a farm-fresh Farewell Lunch at the family-owned estate.

Afternoon: Return to Zagreb following lunch, where you'll enjoy free time for your own discoveries.

Dinner: On your own—there's always someplace new to try within walking distance of the hotel, with choices ranging from cozy to elegant and from burgers to French, Eastern European, Balkan, and Italian.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free for your own explorations. You might relax in the hotel's gracious public areas. Or finish your packing and enjoy a quiet evening in your room before tomorrow's flight.

Day 16 Return to U.S. or begin your post-trip extension

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depending on your flight time, you will board a bus for your drive to the airport. Or begin your post-trip extension in *Bosnia & Herzegovina: The Irrepressible Spirit of Sarajevo*.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

4 nights in *Bosnia & Herzegovina: The Irrepressible Spirit of Sarajevo*

Day 1 Zagreb, Croatia • Sarajevo

**Day 2 Explore Sarajevo •
Home-Hosted Lunch**

Day 3 Sarajevo • Optional Mostar tour

Day 4 Sarajevo Tunnel

Day 5 Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Konavle

(Day 9 \$150 per person)

Gain a broader understanding of the Croatian experience when you visit Konavle, a quaint and sparsely populated valley region. Over 30 villages pepper the vast area, which is home to about 10,000 people. You'll travel to Gruda and visit a local gallery to learn about centuries-old traditional embroidery and the entire silk culture. You'll get to learn how silk is produced and browse the extensive selection of handmade products.

Then, we'll meet a local who will explain traditional techniques of making olive oil. After that, you'll sit down to a farm-fresh lunch and enjoy a demonstration of Croatian music using traditional instruments before returning to the ship.

a spectacular landscape where you'll view the river's waterfalls cascading over and around lush, dense vegetation. You'll also explore the surrounding Krka National Park, which is home to abundant indigenous flora and fauna, including over 200 bird species. It's a memorable excursion to one of Croatia's most pristine locales.

Krka Falls

(Day 13 \$100 per person)

Krka Falls is a series of spectacular cascading waterfalls that comprise one of Croatia's true natural wonders. Over millennia, the Krka River has carved canyons into the surrounding limestone of the Dinara Mountains, creating

PRE-TRIP

Slovenia: Ljubljana's Old World Charm

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » 4 nights accommodation
- » 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- » 1 guided tour (with personal headsets)
- » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Discover how the past and present have seamlessly merged in Slovenia. Ljubljana is filled with café-lined streets in its Old Town and quaint bridges spanning its namesake river. But it boasts a modern atmosphere as well—much of the city was rebuilt after an earthquake at the end of the 19th century.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

You depart from the U.S. for Ljubljana.

Day 2 Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Destination: Ljubljana
- Accommodations: City Hotel Ljubljana or similar

Afternoon/Evening: Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport and assisted with your transfer to your hotel. You'll have the chance to get to know the area surrounding your hotel during an orientation walk, followed by a Welcome Drink with your fellow travelers.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 3 Explore Ljubljana

- Destination: Ljubljana
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: City Hotel Ljubljana or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Get to know this indomitable city during a walking tour. The serene-looking university town with its hilltop castle is a true survivor: An 1895 earthquake destroyed much of the town. But the locals rebuilt Slovenia's charming capital with determination. Many of the city's buildings, parks, and monuments (and all of the bridges spanning the city center) were designed by innovative local architect Joze Plecnik in the first half of the 20th century. Plecnik incorporated remnants of the original Roman, medieval, Baroque, and Habsburg buildings into new construction that remains today. Your walking tour will highlight the

quaint bridges spanning the gently flowing Ljubljana River, and the narrow streets of its café-lined Old Town.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: After your guided exploration, the balance of the day is free for you to explore on your own. You might want to visit St. Nicholas's Cathedral, one of the city's striking Baroque buildings. While its green dome and twin towers catch the eye at first, it offers an array of beautiful details, from its bright *pieta* on the southern wall to the enormous sculpted bronze doors on the front and side of the building. The ceilings of the nave and the dome are both so intricately detailed, you could spend hours simply interpreting the scenes above you.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 4 Ljubljana • Optional Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle tour

- Destination: Ljubljana
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: City Hotel Ljubljana or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Explore Ljubljana at your own pace for a full day. Perhaps you'll survey the entire region from the top of Ljubljanski Grad, the castle that crowns the town. The castle tower dates from the 19th century, and its walls are even older—they were built in the early 1500s. From here you can see past the river all the way to the Julian Alps.

Or join us for an optional Postojna Cave tour. With names like Upturned Ship, Gothic Hall, and Tiger Hall, these underground chambers enthrall with their singular rock formations, including Brilliant, the most famous stalagmite in the world. During your visit, you'll have a chance to ride the only cave-system railway in the world. Then, continue on to Predjama Castle, a remarkable cliffside fortress complete with a labyrinth of secret underground passages and tunnels carved from solid bedrock. Originally built in the 13th century, the nearly impregnable fortress served as a stronghold for many bandits and robber barons through its fascinating history.

Lunch: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to recommend a lunch spot for all travelers, including those on the optional tour.

Afternoon: Those who don't take the optional tour are free to make their own discoveries. Travelers on the optional tour will begin making their way back to Ljubljana after lunch, arriving in the mid-afternoon.

Dinner: We'll reconvene this evening for dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 5 Ljubljana • Optional Lake Bled tour

- Destination: Ljubljana
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: City Hotel Ljubljana or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You can further explore Ljubljana on your own today. Or, join our optional full-day excursion to the picturesque resort area of Lake Bled (subject to local weather conditions). It is

difficult to envision a more picture-postcard setting than Bled's 17th-century church, perched on an islet in the middle of the lake, and its 800-year-old castle clinging to a rocky cliff, all against a backdrop of the majestic Julian Alps. Your optional tour includes a ride on the emerald lake by *pletna* boat, the locals' version of a gondola, to reach the island church.

Lunch: Those who choose to take the optional tour will enjoy a light, included lunch at a local restaurant. Travelers who do not take the optional tour are free to seek out lunch on their own.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Dinner: We'll celebrate our final evening in Ljubljana over dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 6 Ljubljana • Zagreb, Croatia • Join main adventure

- Destination: Zagreb
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer by coach to Zagreb to begin your *Cruising the Adriatic: Croatia & Montenegro Small Ship Adventure*.

OPTIONAL TOURS

Postojna Cave & Predjama Castle (Day 4 \$105 per person)

With names like Upturned Ship, Gothic Hall, and Tiger Hall, the underground chambers of Postojna enthrall with their singular formations, including Brilliant, the most famous stalagmite in the world. Gothic Hall has its own claim to fame—the remains of Ice Age animals were discovered here. Visitors have headed underground for 189 years, at first on foot. In 1872, railroad tracks were laid—though it would be twelve more years before electrical lighting was installed, so that visitors could ride into the depths in the comfort of rail cars and witness the illuminated splendors. You'll have a chance to ride the only cave-system railway in the world in our visit here today. After that, continue to Predjama Castle, a remarkable cliffside fortress complete with a labyrinth of secret underground passages and tunnels carved from solid bedrock. Originally built in the 13th century, the nearly

impregnable fortress served as a stronghold for many bandits and robber barons through its fascinating history.

Lake Bled (Day 5 \$125 per person)

Bled was founded more than 1,000 years ago, and its natural beauty and healing waters have been attracting pilgrims for centuries. It is difficult to envision a more picture-postcard setting than Bled's 17th-century church perched on an islet in the middle of the lake and its 800-year-old castle clinging to a rocky cliff, all against a backdrop of the majestic Julian Alps. Your optional tour includes a ride on the emerald lake by *pletna* boat, the locals' version of a gondola, to reach the island church. You may find it hard to resist ringing the "wishing bell" at the 15th-century belfry next to the church. After an included light lunch, you'll return to Ljubljana.

POST-TRIP

Bosnia & Herzegovina: The Irrepressible Spirit of Sarajevo

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- | | |
|--|--|
| » Accommodations for 4 nights in Sarajevo at the Hotel Europe or similar | » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader |
| » 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners | » Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers |
| » 3 guided tours (with personal headsets) and cultural experiences | » All transfers |

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Founded by the Ottoman Empire in the middle of the 15th century, Sarajevo developed into a vibrant melting pot—where Jews, Christians, and Muslims peacefully coexisted for centuries. Only just beginning to be rediscovered by travelers, today's Sarajevo has stepped out of the shadows of war to reclaim its standing as one of the most compelling, enchanting, and culturally rich European capitals.

Day 1 Zagreb, Croatia • Sarajevo

- Destination: Sarajevo
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel President or similar

Afternoon: Fly to Sarajevo. Following check in at your hotel, join your Trip Experience Leader on an orientation walk around the neighborhood of your hotel.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 2 Explore Sarajevo • Home-Hosted Lunch

- Destination: Sarajevo
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel President or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning's walking tour with your Trip Experience Leader reveals five centuries of history and architecture in the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. You'll journey from the medieval alleys and cobbled streets of the old Turkish quarter to the infamous spot on the Latin Bridge where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914—the spark that would soon ignite World War I. Your tour also highlights Sarajevo's historic reputation for religious tolerance when you see the close proximity of its mosques, synagogues, and Orthodox and Roman Catholic cathedrals.

As you walk Sarajevo's streets, you will likely notice the fruits of the city's continued reemergence from its war-torn recent past: Ongoing renovations, new developments, fresh landscaping, new business, and a palpable, spring-like air of renewal and rebirth. You will also occasionally encounter visible evidence of the events that occurred following the violent

breakup of the former Yugoslavia in 1992 (including the subsequent three-and-a-half year siege of the city by Bosnian Serbs), which only serves to heighten the dramatic improvements that have revitalized Sarajevo.

Lunch: Your small group will join a local family for a **Home-Hosted Lunch** to gain further insights into Bosnian life and culture.

Afternoon: The rest of the afternoon is free for your own explorations. Perhaps you'll visit the Srebrenica Museum, a memorial art gallery documenting the massacre that was one of the horrific events of the Bosnian War. You might choose to visit the Old Synagogue. Built in the 16th century, this architectural and cultural landmark has been restored from its demolition after World War II and now houses a national Jewish Museum. Or explore the lively Ottoman bazaar.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 3 Sarajevo • Optional Mostar tour

- Destination: Sarajevo
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel President or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Spend the day pursuing your own interests in Sarajevo. Perhaps you'll venture to the outskirts of Sarajevo to *Vrelo Bosne* (Spring of Bosna)—a verdant oasis of bubbling streams, springs, and waterfalls set in the foothills of Mount Igman. Here, you can spend time exploring idyllic surroundings, crisscrossed by bridges, walking paths, and pools frequented by ducks and swans.

Or, you may join an optional excursion to Mostar, a city named for the watchtowers (*mostars* in Bosnian) of its historic bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The bridge spans the Neretva River, which divides the town into Muslim and Croat sections and was designed by the Ottoman architect Mimar Hayruddin in the 16th century. The stone structure was built over a network of wooden supports, and the ruling sultan told Hayruddin he would be executed if the bridge collapsed once the supports were removed. Though Hayruddin dug his own grave in preparation, he lived because the bridge stood—for four more centuries.

When the original structure was destroyed by a bomb during the Bosnian conflict in 1993, UNESCO helped fund its rebuilding as a symbol of unity—using a combination of steel and original white stone that had been salvaged from the wreckage. Its eleven-year reconstruction took two years longer than its original building.

Lunch: On your own for travelers not electing to take the optional tour. Those who have chosen to join the optional tour will enjoy an included lunch.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries. Or, for those on our optional tour, you will have some free time to discover local handcrafts on your own, then return to Sarajevo in the late afternoon.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 4 Sarajevo Tunnel

- Destination: Sarajevo
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel President or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Ride to the famous Sarajevo Tunnel (also called the Tunnel of Hope). Dug by volunteers over a period of months, the tunnel stretches more than 3,000 feet and connects Sarajevo—then controlled by the Serbian forces—to the neutral neighborhoods near the Sarajevo airport, which were under the authority of the United Nations. The passageway was used to ferry arms, food, and other supplies to people within the city. Approximately 20 million tons of food passed through the tunnel, along with one million people. A symbol of Sarajevo’s resilience and ingenuity, today the tunnel is an inspiring, thought-provoking museum.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Dinner: A Farewell Dinner is included at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 5 Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

OPTIONAL TOUR

Mostar

(Day 3 \$140 per person)

On this full-day tour, we explore the town of Mostar, in Bosnia & Herzegovina, internationally known for its Old Town and bridge, now a symbol of reconciliation, cooperation, and the coexistence of diverse cultural, religious, and ethnic communities. First you’ll stop in the picturesque village of Pocitelj, then continue to Mostar, the economical, political, and cultural center of Herzegovina. The central part of the Old Town, with its forts, towers, and gates, developed around this magnificent monument built by great Turkish builders in the 16th century. Damaged in the last war and restored in 2004 under UNESCO protection, it is a masterpiece of Turkish architecture. You’ll also stop at Konjic, where the Yugoslavian dictator Tito constructed a secret bunker during the Cold War.

During an included lunch, you’ll have an opportunity to taste some local specialties. After some free time to discover local handcrafts on your own, you’ll return to Sarajevo in the late afternoon.

YOUR MEDITERRANEAN SMALL SHIP

Small Ship Adventures aboard our privately owned, award-winning, 50-passenger small ships

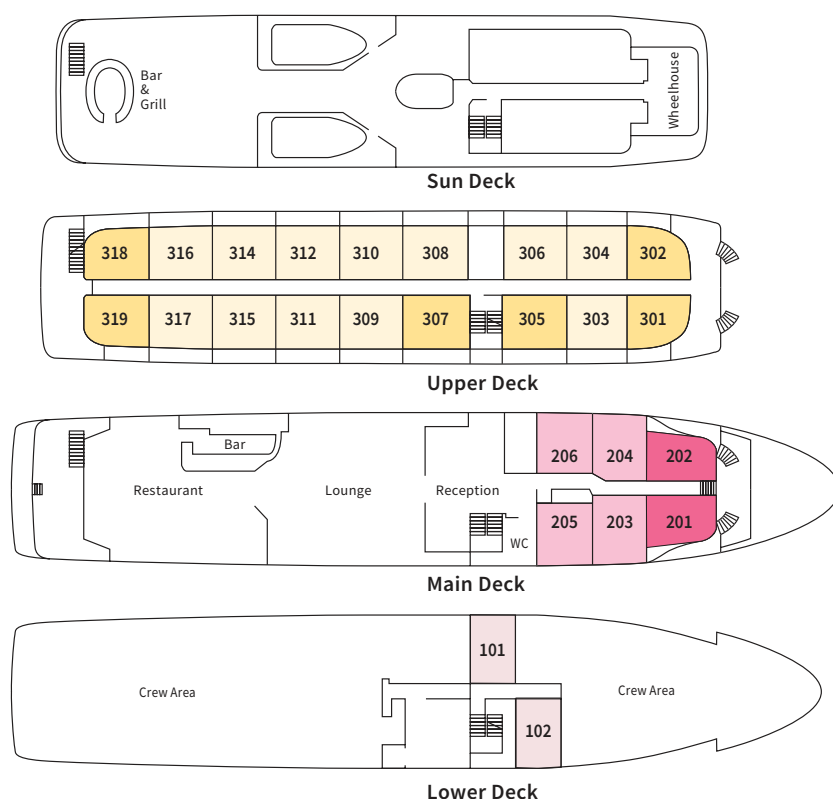
During your travels in the Mediterranean—including the Aegean and Adriatic seas and French and Italian Rivas—you'll be cruising aboard one of our 50-passenger small ships, rated excellent by 96% of travelers. The M/V *Athena*, M/V *Artemis*, and M/V *Arethusa* were designed and built to carry just two groups of 20–25 (average of 22) travelers, each with its own local Trip Experience Leader. These ships are the perfect size to navigate the islands and shores of the Mediterranean—and then slip into the smaller ports and harbors for the night, well away from the larger cruise ships.



SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Restaurant with single, open seating:** Savor regionally-inspired dishes or American favorites during all meals.
- **Comfortable lounge:** Relax with old friends and new, and participate in onboard discussions and lectures.
- **Complimentary beverages:** Enjoy house beer and house wine—as well as soft drinks—at any time of day while onboard.
- **Wireless Internet access:** Connect online in cabins and common areas. ***Please note:** Connectivity may be limited at certain points throughout your cruise.*
- **Outdoor common areas:** Relish coastal views from your seat on the Sun Deck—perhaps with a cocktail from the outdoor bar.
- **English-speaking crew:** Enjoy dedicated attention from our international staff throughout your voyage. Plus, all shipboard announcements are made in English for your convenience.

MEDITERRANEAN SMALL SHIPS



CABIN CATEGORIES

	A	Cabin with private balcony – 150-170 sq. ft.
	B	Cabin with private balcony – 150-170 sq. ft.
	C	Cabin with portholes – 160 sq. ft.
	D	Cabin with portholes – 160 sq. ft.
	S	Single cabin with portholes – 140 sq. ft.

Registry: Malta

Length: 193 ft.

Beam: 35 ft.

Draft: 10 ft.

Cabin Size: 150-170 sq. ft., with 2 single cabins of 140 sq. ft.

Number of Cabins: 26

Passenger Capacity: 50

Built: 2007

International crew: 21

Passenger Decks: 3

Group Size: 25 travelers, maximum, with 1 Trip Experience Leader

Stairs, no elevator

This ship complies with the latest international and U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology. It has retractable fin stabilizers to help reduce discomfort during rough seas.

CABIN FEATURES

- 24 double-occupancy cabins from 150–170 sq. ft.; 2 single-occupancy cabins at 140 sq. ft.
- All outside-facing with either portholes or a balcony
- Two single beds (convertible to one full); one single bed in single-occupancy cabins
- Wireless Internet access, closet, bed-side tables with lamps, desk with mirror, flat-screen TV, telephone, safe, mini-refrigerator, individually controlled air-conditioning, and dual electrical outlets
- Private bath with shower, hair dryer, and toiletries



Cabin on the Upper Deck of the M/V Athena

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this adventure.

- **Main trip only:** For the main trip only, you will need 4 blank passport pages.
- **Optional extension to Ljubljana, Slovenia:** You will need an additional passport page, for a total of 5.
- **Optional extension to Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina:** You will need an additional passport page, for a total of 5.

Visa Required

We’ll be sending you information with detailed instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.

- **Europe (Croatia, Slovenia):** Starting in 2025, U.S. citizens will be required to fill out an online European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) visa-waiver to enter countries in the European Union. There is no confirmed start date for the ETIAS at the time of printing. The ETIAS will be valid for 3 years.
- **Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina:** No visa required.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency).

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

GROUP SIZE

- Travel in two small groups, each no more than 25 travelers aboard our privately owned 50-passenger ship with a local Trip Experience Leader exclusive to O.A.T.

PACING

- 15 days, with 10 nights aboard a 50-passenger small ship, and a two 2-night stays in Zagreb

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6–8 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs
- Good agility, balance, and strength needed for possible rough seas
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the trip
- The small ship does not have elevators onboard
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven walking surfaces, including ruins and archeological sites, unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones, which can be slick in wet or colder conditions
- Travel by 50-passenger small ship and 45-seat coach

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 52–54°F during cruising season

Steps to Take Before Your Trip

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **www.cdc.gov/travel** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

Medications for This Trip

When you visit your doctor, we suggest that you get a prescription for an antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness. Our staff do not carry prescription medications of any kind, and getting an antibiotic can be difficult in Europe.

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to "Find International Travel Information", select "Country Information", then enter the country into the search bar; if you don't see any medications specifically mentioned under the "Health" section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.

- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- Tap water aboard ship and in the countries you visit is safe for drinking, however if you know that your stomach is particularly sensitive to changes in diet/water you may want to drink bottled water instead.
- Bottled water is usually for sale in hotels, food shops, and restaurants.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not accepted** in the countries you'll visit on this trip.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip**; you will need local currency.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Euro Countries: European Euro (€)

Montenegro: European Euro (€)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosnian Mark (KM)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best.

Please note that many banks in Europe will only exchange money for their own customers. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card. Many banks will charge a set fee or a percentage fee each time you use a foreign ATM. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart. Don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM. If you are visiting a country that has different expectation for ATMs, they will be listed below.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. We suggest that you bring one or two, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, as not all are accepted around the world. If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

ilb

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

On Board Ship: Two Separate Bills Will be Issued

- **Shipboard account:** This bill is for any on board purchases (drinks, souvenirs, etc.) and is calculated in Euros. This bill is payable at the front desk by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept only Euros. For credit/debit cards, we accept MasterCard and Visa. Other forms of payment, such as checks, Discover, and American Express are not accepted.
- **Optional tour account:** This bill is for any optional tours taken during the trip and is calculated in U.S. dollars. This bill is paid with your Trip Experience Leader (they will have you fill out a form) by credit/debit card only; other forms of payments such as cash and checks are not accepted. For more information on optional tours—including which cards we accept for payment—see the “Preparing for Your Trip” chapter.

Please note: Payments made by credit card may take up to three months to process. We ask that you use a credit card that will not expire until three months after your trip ends. Because our headquarters are in Boston, the charges may appear to be from Boston or might be labeled as “OPT Boston” (depending on your credit card company).

Exchange Services

Due to international banking laws, we are not able to exchange money onboard the ship. If you need to obtain local currency, please see the “How to Exchange Money” section for helpful tips and information.

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Shipboard Crew:** We recommend a flat tip of \$16–\$18 U.S. per traveler, per day. You’ll give this tip once—at the end of your cruise—and it will be pooled among the entire crew. ***Policy Update:*** *Due to international banking laws, we are no longer able to process crew tips on a credit card; crew tips can only be in the form of cash.*
- **Housekeeping at Hotels:** We recommend \$1–\$2 per traveler, per day. (This is for hotels only; on the ship Housekeeping are part of crew, so you don’t need to tip them separately.)
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Time at Leisure

When you are exploring on your own, it’s useful to know when to tip and how much, because local customs often differ from the U.S. Here are a few helpful guidelines for the most common services a traveler might use:

- **Taxis:** Tipping is not customary, but many locals will round up the fare and let the driver keep the change. If the driver helps you with heavy luggage, then 10% is a nice gesture.
- **Restaurants, cafes, and bars:** Throughout Europe, the tip for the waiter or bartender is usually included in the prices or added on as a service fee. Look for a statement on the menu that service is included, or for a service charge on the bill. If you would like to leave a tip on top of the service fee (or in the cases when the service is not included) then 10% would be considered generous.
- **Public Restrooms:** Most public restrooms in Europe have attendants that take care of cleaning and supplies. It is customary to leave a small tip for them—so hold on to those coins! Some restrooms are pay-toilets; you pay the staff at the entrance to the restroom or drop the appropriate coin into the slot on the stall door. Many restaurants, cafes, and shops offer only pay-toilets or reserve their restrooms for patrons only.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Customized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Customization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Customization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our customization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Customization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45-30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: www.rome2rio.com

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

Calling Apps

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype or FaceTime. These services are usually less expensive than making a traditional call, but you'll need a Wi-Fi connection and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

Croatia: +385

Bosnia and Herzegovina: +387

Montenegro: +382

Slovenia: +386

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on bag per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-on bags.
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (length+width+depth). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A sturdy, fabric-sided suitcase with built-in wheels and lockable zippers is recommended.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as the main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check more than one suitcase per person for flights to Europe and other international flights. Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.	

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.

- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

Checked Luggage

Consider a duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to space limitations on our motorcoaches, you are allowed one piece of checked luggage per person. Portage at airports and hotels is provided for **one** bag per person. All bags should have luggage tags.

Carry-on Bag

You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.

Locks

For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. To have a varied travel wardrobe, yet keep your luggage light, we recommend you select a color scheme and pack color-coordinated clothing items that can be mixed to create different outfits.
- **Consider clothing designed for travel, sports, or camping:** With modern fabrics, lightweight packing for comfort and protection through a wide range of weather is easy.
- **Plan to dress in layers on shore excursions.** Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions: warm days with sun, chilly temperatures with showers, and evenings that could dip into the 40s or 50s, depending on your travel season.
- **Bring rain gear:** Regardless of your month of travel, rainfall is certainly a possibility. We suggest you bring a folding umbrella and waterproof shell. Water-resistant walking shoes are advantageous in case heavy downpours pass through.
- **Good walking shoes are critical.** This program features many included tours that follow steep, unpaved or cobbled routes; and even an average day of light sightseeing or shopping can put great demands on your feet. If you prefer more ankle support, take light hiking boots. In case you get caught in the rain, we suggest you bring an extra pair of walking shoes, and rain boots or galoshes. Aboard ship, you'll want non-slip shoes with rubber soles.

Style Hints

- **Pack casual clothes:** Comfortable, informal apparel is acceptable at each of your destinations. At dinner, you will not need to wear “dressy” clothing; men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need fancy dresses. You may want one or two “smart casual” outfits for the Welcome Reception or Farewell Dinner, but it’s completely up to you.
- **Dress modestly at religious sites in Croatia and Slovenia.** Modestly dressed usually means covered from shoulders to below the knees—no shorts, no sleeveless shirts, and no low or revealing necklines.

Recommended Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. Each travelers packing list may be different depending on the climate you are used to. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

And don’t forget a reusable water bottle—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- ☐ Trousers, jeans, or skirts
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Socks and undergarments

Seasonal Clothing Recommendations

This trip does not run in the spring or summer.

For winter (December–February)

- ☐ For 95% of the trip, you’ll want long, warm jeans or trousers, and not shorts.
- ☐ You’ll mostly want long-sleeved shirts, but might want a couple short sleeves for days on the coast.
- ☐ Snow is common this time of year, so factor that into your footwear choice.

- ☐ Warm outer gear is a must. This means a winter coat, hat, and gloves.
- ☐ Bring clothing you can layer (sweater, fleece, jacket, etc.); thermal or long underwear adds warmth without bulk and doesn't take up much room in your luggage.

For fall (October–November)

- ☐ As the season progresses, you'll want to lean more towards long sleeves and long trousers, but still keep a few lighter things for the coastal part, where it could still be warm.
- ☐ Snow can occur as early as late October in the central part of Croatia or during the extension in Slovenia, so factor that into your footwear choice.
- ☐ Layers (sweater, fleece, jacket, etc.) are key for this season, so you can adjust to the varied weather. As the season progresses, the more warm layers become useful.
- ☐ November is a transitional month into winter.

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription
- ☐ Sunglasses with a neck strap
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF 15 or stronger
- ☐ Travel money bag or money belt
- ☐ Moisturizer, lip balm
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes (packets) and/or anti-bacterial hand lotion
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards
- ☐ Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards

Medicines

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Vitamins
- ☐ Cold remedies: Sudafed/Dristan
- ☐ Pain relievers: Ibuprofen/naproxen/aspirin
- ☐ Laxatives: Senokot/Ex-Lax
- ☐ Stomach upset: Pepto-Bismol/Mylanta
- ☐ Anti-diarrheal: Imodium
- ☐ Band-Aids, Moleskin foot pads
- ☐ Antibiotics: Neosporin/Bacitracin

Home-Hosted Visits

It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all of our adventures include a home-hosted visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity at hotels in this region is 220–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner's guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. Plugging a 110V U.S. appliance into 220/240V 50/60Hz service will ruin the motor. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Aboard the ship, cabins are equipped with both 110-volt and 220-volt outlets.

Plugs

Aboard ship, there are both standard American plugs and Western European Type C plugs.

In hotels, the shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you'll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Because you'll be visiting multiple countries on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

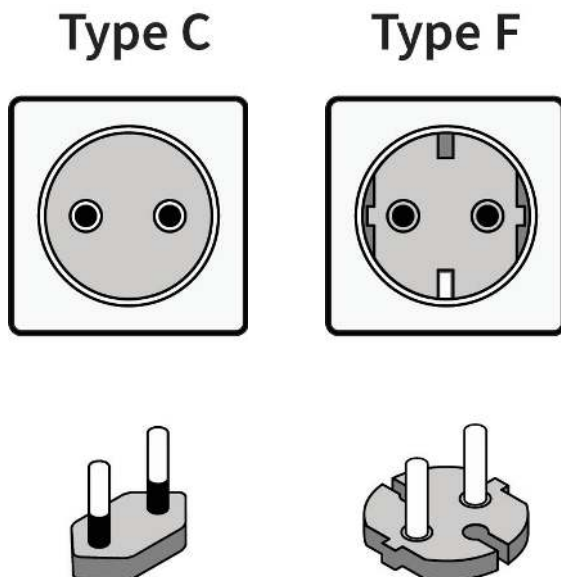
Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

Croatia: C and/or F

Montenegro: C and/or F

Bosnia and Herzegovina: C and/or F

Slovenia: C and/or F



CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Zagreb, Croatia: Because it is located further north and inland, Zagreb has a continental climate. Winters can be cold, sometimes snowy, autumn can be rainy and changeable, and spring can be very unpredictable. In late fall, winter, and early spring, it will get noticeably cooler in Zagreb than it does along the Adriatic seacoast.

Split, Croatia: Located on the Adriatic seacoast, Split has a Mediterranean climate, with very hot, dry summers and very rainy, windy winters (November–March). Be prepared when the north wind, the bura, blows in during the winter it can be quite cold. Split is one of the sunniest places in Europe, receiving an average of seven hours of sunshine per day in winter and twelve hours in summer.

Dubrovnik, Croatia: Located in the southern region of Croatia's Adriatic coast, where lush vegetation slopes down to the clear turquoise of the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik boasts a pleasant Mediterranean climate characterized by wet winters and hot, dry summers. A winter wind, the bura, is the strongest wind along the Adriatic coast. In Croatia, temperatures can hit peaks as high as 100 from June to October with July and August being the hottest months. Water temperatures are warm enough for swimming June–September, but are too cold the rest of the year.

Ljubljana, Slovenia: Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, is situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea; both the warmth of the sea and the cool air of the mountains influence its climate. Although coastal regions of the country have a Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild winters, Ljubljana's weather reflects a continental climate. The city's summer days from June to September are moderately warm and dry, with comfortably cool evenings, while autumn brings mornings of sunshine occasionally interspersed with some showers or haze. Winter months, beginning in January, can be quite cold with temperatures dropping below freezing, while the warmth of spring brings refreshing breezes. This continental climate is changeable, and a day with some passing showers is to be expected during any two-week interval.

Sarajevo, Bosnia–Herzegovina: Sarajevo has a continental climate, lying between the climate zones of central Europe to the North and the Mediterranean to the South. Sarajevo experiences warm summers, with temperatures of 95°F not being uncommon, and cold winters, when snow is guaranteed due to the city's high altitude. The average year-round temperature is 45 °F. Sarajevo receives about 36 inches of precipitation a year. The rainiest month is October when the city receives 3.5 inches of rainfall. The driest is February when the city gets only 2.4 inches of precipitation.

The coastal region of Croatia has a Mediterranean climate. Inland Croatia (including Zagreb) has a more continental climate typical of Eastern Europe. However, it can be quite cold in winter. Rain can come at any time and with it the temperature can drop dramatically. Water temperatures are warm enough for swimming June–September, but are too cold the rest of the year.

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	ZAGREB, CROATIA			SPLIT, CROATIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	37 to 27	--	2.0	52 to 38	70 to 58	12
FEB	46 to 30	--	1.9	53 to 39	67 to 54	12
MAR	56 to 36	--	2.2	58 to 43	72 to 55	12
APR	58 to 39	--	2.7	63 to 48	70 to 54	13
MAY	67 to 50	--	3.2	71 to 56	69 to 54	12
JUN	73 to 56	--	3.7	79 to 63	63 to 49	10
JUL	81 to 60	--	3.1	85 to 67	58 to 42	5
AUG	81 to 59	--	3.1	84 to 67	62 to 44	7
SEP	71 to 51	--	3.1	78 to 61	73 to 51	8
OCT	59 to 44	--	3.7	69 to 54	76 to 59	12
NOV	46 to 35	--	3.4	60 to 46	73 to 60	13
DEC	39 to 30	--	2.6	54 to 41	72 to 60	13

MONTH	DUBROVNIK, CROATIA			LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	52 to 41	66 to 62	14	36 to 23	91 to 77	1.6
FEB	53 to 41	66 to 62	13	40 to 25	90 to 65	1.6
MAR	57 to 45	68 to 60	14	50 to 31	91 to 57	1.6
APR	62 to 50	66 to 58	14	57 to 37	88 to 52	2.0
MAY	70 to 57	66 to 58	12	67 to 45	86 to 52	2.0
JUN	77 to 64	60 to 55	9	73 to 52	87 to 55	2.0
JUL	82 to 69	52 to 49	6	77 to 55	87 to 53	2.0
AUG	82 to 69	55 to 51	6	77 to 55	90 to 53	2.0
SEP	76 to 64	62 to 56	8	69 to 49	95 to 60	2.4
OCT	69 to 56	69 to 62	12	58 to 41	95 to 68	2.8
NOV	59 to 48	70 to 64	14	44 to 31	93 to 78	2.8
DEC	54 to 43	68 to 65	14	37 to 26	92 to 84	2.0

MONTH	SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	36 to 23	92 to 79	0.8
FEB	42 to 26	91 to 68	0.8
MAR	52 to 33	90 to 55	1.2
APR	58 to 39	88 to 54	1.2
MAY	68 to 47	88 to 53	0.8
JUN	73 to 53	88 to 54	0.8
JUL	78 to 56	89 to 50	0.8
AUG	78 to 55	91 to 52	0.8
SEP	72 to 49	94 to 54	0.8
OCT	61 to 42	94 to 62	1.2
NOV	46 to 33	93 to 76	1.2
DEC	37 to 26	92 to 83	1.2

ABOARD YOUR SHIP: CABIN FEATURES, DINING & SERVICES ON BOARD

M/V Athena, M/V Artemis & M/V Arethusa

Owned, operated, and staffed by us, these ships were designed exclusively for our travelers, and each features a similar layout. On the main deck, you'll find our reception area and the ship's library. For relaxation, the lounge/bar features inviting leather couches and soft chairs. Topside, a sun deck has classic wooden deck chairs for admiring the scenery. When it's time for meals, our large dining area at the stern features a single seating policy. While cruising, we'll enjoy daily breakfast and lunch buffets; sit-down dinners feature international and local specialties paired with regional wines.

Included features of your Small Ship

The Ship:

- Restaurant with single open seating
- Open Sun Deck for prime viewing
- Shipboard activities
- Smoke-free environment
- All shipboard announcements made in English
- Ice machine in the lobby
- Water fountains in the lobby

All Cabins:

- All outside cabins
- Layout of 150-163 square feet (24 doubles) and 120-135 square feet (2 singles)
- Private bath with shower, hair dryer
- Color TV with movies, and a bow camera for ship-front views
- Ample closet and dresser space
- Direct-dial telephone

An important word: While our ship features larger-than-usual cabins, please keep in mind that this ship is a coastal vessel, not large ocean cruise ships. Coastal cabins, in comparison, are relatively small, and ship amenities, in general, are comfortable but not lavish.

Cabin Assignments

You will receive confirmation of your deck and/or cabin category upfront in writing; it will be on your invoice and online in My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner. However, your cabin number may not be assigned until you arrive on board the ship. (This is normal procedure for ships in many parts of the world, including Europe.) If there's no cabin number on your invoice or online, you can presume it will be assigned later and communicated to you when you board.

Dining

You'll enjoy fine cuisine and excellent views in your ship's dining room, featuring a warm decor of dark woods, rich carpeting, and white-linen and china table settings. Your ship's daily service includes breakfast and lunch buffets, and a more formal dinner. Our professional chefs will create unique menus for you that feature regional specialties. Included with both lunch and dinner are complimentary drinks; you'll be able to choose from house wine, draft beer, or a selection of soft drinks. In addition, a selection of other fine wines and beer is available for purchase, starting at approximately \$20–30 per wine bottle (prices vary according to vintage). Travelers may also bring a bottle of their own favorite wine to dinner to enjoy at their table. Should you care to avail yourself of this service, there will be a corkage fee of approximately \$10 per bottle, charged to your cabin account.

Please note that if you bring your own alcohol aboard, it can only be consumed in the dining room as described above, or in your cabin. Consumption of alcohol purchased outside the ship is not permitted in the lounge or public areas. We also offer complimentary coffee and tea throughout the day, available in the lounge.

Open-table, single seating for all meals: Each meal is open seating—reservations of any kind are not accepted. Dinner has only one designated time for its open seating, announced each day aboard ship.

Dining times: Dining times for all meals may vary depending on the day's sightseeing and sailing schedule, but in general, meal times are as follows:

- Early riser breakfast: 7:00 –7:30 am
- Breakfast: 7:30–8:30 am
- Lunch: 1:00–2:00 pm
- Dinner: 7:00 pm

Special diets & celebrations: Special diets, such as low-cholesterol, vegetarian, or gluten-free, can be accommodated, as well as the recognition of an anniversary or birthday. Please call us to submit your request no later than 45 days prior to departure. Religious dietary regimens, such as kosher or halal meals, cannot be prepared aboard ship.

Dress code: The dining-room dress code is casual, though most travelers dress nicely for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Farewell Dinner.

Non-smoking policy: The entire dining room is non-smoking at all times.

Embarkation/Disembarkation

On the day of disembarkation, your cabin will no longer be available after breakfast. You may sit in the ship's lounge or on the Sun Deck until disembarkation.

Headsets

During your trip, complimentary headsets (often called “whisper receivers”) will be provided on all of your included and optional tours, so that you can hear better over ambient noise. If you use a hearing aid or have a strong preference for a particular type of headphones, we highly encourage you to bring your own headphones/ear buds with you. The plug size is usually the same as that used by smartphones, computer jacks, etc. Headsets will also be available during the pre- and post-trip extensions, but not on the transfer day to/from the main trip.

Wireless Internet Access

Limited complimentary Wireless Internet service is available on board the ship. If you want to use the Wireless Internet connection you'll need to bring your own device (laptop/tablet/netbook) — ships do not rent or loan these devices. Shipboard access is subject to the challenges of travel: ship location, signal availability, and usage volume on board will affect connectivity and speed. The ship's Internet connection demands a strong cell phone signal, which is unavailable in many of the areas we visit, and connectivity can be limited. You can expect disruptions of both long and short duration. You may be able to take advantage of available shoreside Internet cafes, or hotel access if available.

Laundry and Linen Service

Laundry service is available for a fee. Please note that neither self-service laundry facilities nor dry cleaning services are available. Towels are changed daily, but only at your request. (We use the international signal that most green hotels have adopted — if you want a towel changed, leave it on the floor or in the shower. A towel on the rack or hung up indicates you'll reuse it.) Bed linens are not changed daily. Fresh bed linens are supplied at the start of every cruise, and if the cruise is longer than two weeks they will be changed every 14 days. For cruises less than two weeks long, you'll keep the same bed linens for the duration.

Medical Care

Our entire fleet adheres to stringent European safety standards. Ships feature fully staffed reception desks for most of the day (from 7:00 AM to 10 PM) and each cabin is equipped with an emergency call button available to alert the Captain.

On Board Activities

During your cruise you'll enjoy exclusive Discovery Series events, including group activities that relate to the region, theme dinners, organized discussions, and talks on upcoming ports of call.

Recreational Facilities

These include a sun deck, lounge, library, bar and dance floor. The bar is open from 9:30 am to 11 pm, and features both complimentary drinks (soft drinks, house beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic cocktails/beer) and drinks for purchase (spirits, alcoholic cocktails, bottled beers, and a selection of wines). Prices are in Euros.

Bicycles

We're pleased to offer complimentary bicycle rentals onboard your ship for use during free time, including all of the necessary safety gear, such as a helmet, brightly-colored safety vest, and a lock. Because there is a limited supply of bicycles available, they will be offered on a first-come first-served basis. For more information or if you are interested in using one of the bicycles, please speak to the Front Desk staff or Hotel Manager onboard your ship.

Telephone Services

To make telephone calls from the ship, you will be charged on your shipboard account on the last day of the cruise. Phone calls are directly from your cabin and through satellite, and are charged per minute without regard to whether or not it is a local, international or Calling Card based call. We advise you to use it only for an emergency, as this is a satellite connection and a very expensive service (for example, calls will cost about \$10.00 per minute).

Smoking/Non-Smoking Policy

All cabins are non-smoking. Smoking is permitted only outside on the sun deck. Smoking is not allowed anywhere else on the ship.

Shore Excursions

Included during your cruise are many sightseeing tours. Other optional tours are available for purchase. We will provide information on these optional excursions on your arrival. Please note that optional tours can only be purchased with a credit card or a debit card that doesn't require a pin.

Lost & Found

Any lost or forgotten items found on board the ship will be held for 90 days from disembarkation. After 90 days, all unclaimed items will be discarded or donated.

Ship Specifications

M/V Artemis

- **History:** Built in 2008
- **Size:** 193x35 ft
- **Capacity:** 50 passengers, 21 crew members

- **Layout:** 26 cabins, 3 decks; Elevator-no

M/V *Athena*

- **History:** Built in 2007
- **Size:** 193x35 ft
- **Capacity:** 50 passengers, 21 crew members
- **Layout:** 26 cabins, 3 decks; Elevator-no

M/V *Arethusa*

- **History:** Built in 2008
- **Size:** 193x35 ft
- **Capacity:** 50 passengers, 21 crew members
- **Layout:** 26 cabins, 3 decks; Elevator-no

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

South Slavic Culture

The term "Balkan" has been used to refer to this region, but the Balkan Mountains are contained almost entirely within Bulgaria; and technically, the "Balkan Peninsula" is not even a true peninsula. More important, since the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the term "Balkanization" has had negative connotations that the people of these new, vibrant nations are eager to overcome. So today, they prefer to define this area as "Southeastern Europe."

The people of southeastern Europe are mostly South Slavs, who are all descended from the same ancestors and speak closely related languages. (Albanians comprise a separate ethnic group **descended from Indo-European tribes.**) South Slavic people identify with sub-ethnic groups such as Serbs, Croats, or Bosniaks, but their presence is not necessarily confined to specific countries, as they have historically migrated and intermingled. Remember, the states of Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Slovenia are fairly recent, but the cultural pluralism within them is not.

The region has been a crossroads of cultures for millennia, a place where peoples of Slavic, Latin, Finno-Ugric, Greek and Turkish origin have settled. Where Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, Habsburg, and Soviet empires have left their imprint. And where Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Islam, and (up until the post World War II period) Judaism all meet.

With all that diversity, you will find that there are many words common across the spoken languages, similar culinary traditions, shared folk beliefs and mutual artistic, musical, literary and artisanal styles. Most important, across all South Slavic groups, family is of the utmost importance, and that includes extended family. Three-generation households are common, and even when people move away (usually, for economic reasons), they retain close ties to their home towns. It is all bound up in the concept of *narod*, which roughly means "nation" or "folk" and has mythic and romantic overtones.

South Slavic people are known to be down-to-earth, and the rhythm of daily life here is easygoing. They are passionate about sports—the most popular being soccer, followed by basketball. You'll notice that the people are very social and love to gather for long visits in cafes and village squares. There's an especially vibrant coffee culture throughout the region, a holdover from centuries of Ottoman rule. South Slavs stand close to each other and can be loud

and expressive when they talk. But with strangers, they tend to be more formal. At the same time, hospitality is a point of family honor, and people will go out of their way to make you feel welcome.

Religion and Religious Observances

It is virtually impossible to separate the role of religion from the historic, political and cultural development of all the countries visited on this adventure. This goes back to the 4th century AD, when the Roman Empire was split along religious lines between the Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) churches. That line fell directly down the middle of southeastern Europe, roughly along today's Bosnia-Serbia border. Then, in the 14th century, the Ottoman Turks invaded and settled in for five centuries, during which time Islam was widely embraced.

During the Communist era, the Yugoslav government was quite effective at secularizing the country and suppressing all religions. That completely changed with the fall of the former Yugoslav nation, and today, the vast majority of people in Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia declare themselves to be religiously observant.

Religion here is not just a matter of faith, it's the single most important differentiator among the various ethnic groups. **Croats** and **Slovenes** are mainly Roman Catholic. (Slovenia also has a small Lutheran community.) Orthodox Christian **Serbs** live in Serbia, but also have significant minorities throughout southeastern Europe. **Montenegro** has no single ethnic majority, but most of its people are Orthodox Christians (about 72%), with the rest being mostly Muslim.

Muslim **Bosniaks** descend from people who converted to Islam under the Ottomans. They represent nearly 50% of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which also has large Serbian and Croat minorities. The style of Islam practiced in Bosnia is more liberal and western-oriented than what is prevalent in the Middle East, and Bosniak Muslims have historically been very tolerant of other faiths. Inter-marriage between Muslims and Christians has been common here for centuries.

Historically, there were Jewish communities throughout Southeastern Europe, mainly descended from Sephardic Jews who'd been expelled from Iberia in 1492, and resettled here. Under Ottoman rule, the Jews were granted some protections. But in the 19th century, when independent Slavic states arose, things became more restrictive. With World War II, most of the Jews residing in what was then Yugoslavia were deported to concentration camps and murdered. Only in Montenegro was the story different, for here, the occupying Italians made efforts to protect them, and some 5,000 Jews were saved. Today, the Jewish community here is very small.

Christmas and Easter are the most important religious holidays. All Saint's Day (November 1) is when families gather at cemeteries with flowers and candles to honor departed ancestors, then return home to visit other relatives and enjoy a family feast. Members of the Serbian Orthodox church practice a very solemn and sacred tradition called *Slava*. It is the celebration of a family's patron saint on his or her saint's day, and it represents the family's affirmation of Christianity, the Orthodox Church, and by extension, the Serbian national identity. It includes several rituals and folk practices, and always ends with a lavish banquet.

Visiting Churches and Mosques

Many churches run special services that you are welcome to attend. Otherwise, you are welcome to visit outside of services. Most churches have a dress code, but it is loosely enforced. Out of respect, you should try to cover your shoulders and wear long pants or shorts or skirts that reach the knee. If you'll be traveling during warm weather and want to go sleeveless or wear a tank top, then we suggest that you throw a light sweater or cover-up into your daypack. A pashmina-type shawl is ideal for covering shoulders or low-cut blouses, or even wrapping around the waist as a sarong.

In Bosnia, non-Muslims are usually welcome to visit mosques outside of prayer time. The same dress guidelines apply. You may be required to remove your shoes.

Language

When all these countries were part of Yugoslavia, the official language was Serbo-Croatian, which is still widely spoken and understood. But since the 1990s, most countries have re-asserted their original national tongues. Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian, Montenegrin and Bosnian are all very similar in both spoken and written forms. Some linguists have described their differences as being similar to the differences between American, British and Australian English.

Most people here are multilingual, and English is widely spoken, especially among young people. In a pinch, you can always converse using gestures and body language. To break the ice, bring along some family photographs, or a few postcards of your hometown. But please do learn a few phrases in the local language. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated, even if your pronunciation is off.

Smoking

Please note that in Croatia, smoking is permitted in most public places, including bars and nightclubs but *not* indoors in restaurants. In Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, smoking is allowed in public spaces, including restaurants and bars. In Montenegro, smoking is banned in all indoor public places. Slovenia permits public smoking only in designated smoking rooms.

Accommodations

The hotels featured on this itinerary may offer air conditioning on a seasonal basis only. Also, please note that most European hotel rooms are smaller than what you may be used to in the U.S.

Taking Photographs

When taking photos of people in most countries, be polite and ask permission to take a close-up. In many countries, you should not be taking photos of children or older women without permission. Do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

Please obey any signs regarding photos at museum or sites; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room – use a room safe as needed. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt.

Croatian Cuisine

Are Croatia's **Ston oysters** the best in the world? You can decide when you are exploring the Dalmatian coast, which is also famous for mussels, prawns, and all manner of fish and shellfish. The Zinfandel grape originated here, so you may want to try a local wine made from it. Croatia also has a stronger alcoholic beverage, **rakija**, in several differently flavored or spiced varieties, such as **travarica**, which has added herbs is one regional specialty. Pair it with some well known dishes like:

- **Crni rizot:** A black risotto made with squid.
- **Brudet:** A flavorful fish and tomato stew.
- **Pasticada:** A dish loved by carnivores, is this stuffed beef cooked in wine.
- **Rozata:** This sweet caramel cream is a Dubrovnik specialty.
- **Gregada:** A fish stew often made with fresh scorpion fish or grouper chopped into large chunks with sliced potatoes and lashings of olive oil.
- **Štrukli:** Delicious pillows of dough filled with cottage cheese and slathered in cream that are enjoyed as a dessert or a mid-morning snack.
- **Burek:** Flaky pastries layered with cheese, spinach, apple or meat that are enjoyed any time of day.

Montenegrin Cuisine

Here you will find delicious Adriatic dishes. You might try the salted sheep's cheese that is arranged around a platter of veggies. While you are waiting for your food you can order a **jardum**, a drink made with only sheep milk and salt. Some other popular dishes include:

- **Buzara:** Shrimp, prawns and other shellfish simmered in red or white wine and herbs.
- **Sarma:** Cabbage leaves stuffed with ground meat served with fresh-caught octopus, grilled and drizzled with olive oil.
- **Njeguski Steak:** A veal or pork schnitzel filled with prosciutto and smothered with melted kajmak cheese.

Bosnian and Herzegovinian Cuisine

With strong Ottoman influences, Bosnian food emphasizes halal beef and lamb, fresh vegetables, and hearty soups.

- **Cevap:** Oblong-shaped kebabs served in somun bread with raw onions.
- **Sogan dolma:** Instead of the traditional grape leaf wrapping, this dish uses an onion, then stuffs it with rice or meat and dresses it with a lemony sauce.
- **Begova corba** (Bey's soup): A slow-cooked chicken and vegetable stew thickened with egg yolks and sour cream.
- **Klepe:** The Bosnian version of minced meat dumplings, similar in size and shape to ravioli, but served with a yogurt or garlic sauce.
- **Bosanski lonac:** A stew/casserole that is cooked in alternating layers of meat, vegetables, and meat again.
- **Tufahija:** A sugar-glazed poached apple with walnuts and whipped cream, and a Greek-style coffee.

Slovenian Cuisine

Slovenia may only be the size of Massachusetts, but it still boasts 24 distinct gastronomic regions, and many dishes with EU protected status. Here are some dishes to try:

- **Idrijski zlikrofi:** Heavenly pasta pockets filled with potato, bacon and herbs.
- **Kremšnita:** This Bled Cream Cake is a confection of flaky crust, vanilla custard, icing sugar and whipped cream.
- **Kraški pršut:** (prosciutto from the karst lands) and Istrian olive oil give their Italian cousins a run for the money.
- **Štruklji:** Slovenia's version of strudel, filled with either savory or sweet ingredients like cheese, walnuts, apples and poppy seeds. In spring and summer, try it with fresh tarragon.

Zagreb in Brief

City Layout & Details

Zagreb's historic central area consists of two sections: the Upper Town (Gornji Grad), which as the name implies is on a hilltop, and the Lower Town (Donji Grad). Ban Jelacic Square, the city's central public space, is on the border between the Upper and Lower Towns. It's called Trg Bana Jelačića in Croatian; Trg means "city square." In the upper town, winding streets lead to the Croatian Parliament building. The city's central open-air market (Dolac) is here, as well as the charming, pedestrian-only street Tkalciceva. On the hill named Kaptol what was once a religious

town merged in 1850 with secular Gradec to create the core of modern Zagreb. You can explore Gradec by following the major street Ilica from Ban Jelacic Square, then turning up Tomiceva where a funicular takes you up the hill.

The streets of the Lower Town were laid out in a neat grid in the late 19th century. In broad outline they form a “U” shape known as “the Green Horseshoe” that encompasses many of the city’s main cultural institutions and public buildings. These include the Croatian National Theater, the Arts and Crafts Museum (featuring crafts from the Baroque period to the 20th century), and the Mimara Museum—highly recommended for its outstanding collections of textiles, paintings, sculpture, and ceramics. Here there are also a Technical Museum, the city’s Botanical Garden, and the Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters with works by famous Italian and Dutch painters.

Local Transportation

Zagreb has an extensive bus and tram system that can get you around at minimal expense. You can purchase tickets from street kiosks (slightly cheaper) or on board; be sure to get your ticket time-stamped when you first board at tram. Regular tickets are good for one and a half hours; all-day tickets are also available. The tram system can get you as far as Sljeme on the outskirts of town for a popular excursion to the heights of Mt. Medvednica. Taxis are also readily available in central Zagreb and are metered at a regulated rate.

Dubrovnik In Brief

City Layout & Details

Dubrovnik is situated on an archipelago along the shore of the Adriatic. The rim of its medieval Old Town, known as Stari Grad, begins along the shore and circles around to the north, and is protected by fairly massive walls and stone fortifications. A jetty and small harbor offer views of the coastal area.

Stradun, many centuries old, is the Old Town’s main street and the popular promenade of residents and visitors alike, narrowing as it extends away from the sea. You’ll find an assortment of cafés, boutiques, and intriguing little shops along this ancient city lane. Most of the alleys of the Old Town are outlined by high walls and their pattern may seem complicated, but this historic walled section covers a fairly small area, making it easy to become familiar with the few main roads. Automobiles are not allowed, so you can thoroughly enjoy your strolls here and take your time browsing. You can even walk along the wall for an unparalleled perspective of the area’s layout and architecture. You can gain entrance to this walkway at either end of the Stradun, at the Pile Gate on the western wall and beneath the City Bell Tower. Inside the Old Town you will find the historic old cathedral dating back to the 13th century, the graceful Sponza palace, and a Franciscan monastery that includes a museum. Beyond the walls of the Old Town is the New Town section of Dubrovnik. Walking these streets you will find more modern shops and more restaurants with fresh local cuisine.

There are many historic sites in Dubrovnik, and part of the intrigue of this city is happening upon some of the lesser-known ancient structures as you walk the city lanes. One of the more renowned sites is the Franciscan Monastery, one of the oldest functioning pharmacies in the world. Its apothecary shop dates back to 1317, and the building also holds very old musical scores and manuscripts, along with the works of local painters and jewelers.

The artistic life of Dubrovnik is celebrated at various festivals throughout the year, and many buildings house examples of the creative spirit of the residents. A small museum at the Dominican Monastery displays a good collection of 16th-century religious art done by local artisans. The Luza Art Center is one of many art galleries worth browsing, and the courtyard of the Sponza Palace often holds exhibits of contemporary art. The Sponza Palace is certainly worth visiting for its own merits. This graceful and ornate building combines both Venetian Gothic and Renaissance styles of design, and was once a customs house and mint.

One of the symbols of Dubrovnik is the impressive Minceta Fortress. This circular bastion along the city's walls was completed in 1464 according to plans detailed by the Renaissance architects Dalmatinac (of Croatia) and Michelozzi (of Italy). Another structure that draws much interest is the Onofrio Fountain, created in 1444 just inside the Pile Gate.

Near Luza Square, once the center of medieval Dubrovnik, stands the 18th-century baroque Church of St. Blaise. A statue of an armored knight stands on guard nearby, known as Orlando's Column. It was erected in the 1400s as a tribute to freedom. Government rulings were proclaimed here, and the right arm of Orlando became the state's standard of measure for length (the Ragusan cubit).

If you're seeking a museum to visit, Dubrovnik has several to offer. In addition to the museum of the Dominican Monastery mentioned above, there is also the gothic Rector's Palace, also known as Duke Palace, exhibiting baroque artwork, historical items of the region, and furnished rooms depicting medieval trappings and décor, housing more than 15,000 exhibits of cultural and historical significance. The Rupe Ethnographical Museum displays traditional occupations, architecture, and costumes of the nation. The museum itself is carved out of rock, the structure formerly used as underground storage units for grain, to protect food supplies during periods of siege. In addition, the Maritime Museum is situated in the fortress Sveti Ivan (Fort of St. John), along with the Aquarium of the Institute of Biology for those interested in the marine species of the region.

Attractions

With a little planning, there are sites of interest just outside of the city's environs if you wish to venture further afield. Korcula is nearby, thought by some to be Marco Polo's birthplace. As mentioned earlier, a short boat ride (weather permitting) from Dubrovnik brings you to the lovely Island of Lokrum, said to be where Richard the Lionhearted was shipwrecked. Boat lines can also take you offshore to Sipan, Koločep, or Lopud.

Local Transportation

Dubrovnik is a compact city and it is a delight to explore on foot, especially since Stari Grad (the Old Town) does not allow motor vehicles. If you want to roam further, there are many regular buses that can take you throughout the town and to destinations outside of Dubrovnik. You can buy bus tickets from the bus driver (exact change please) or from a local newspaper kiosk.

You can also take advantage of the marine mode of transportation and relax on a boat for a short ride (weather permitting) to Lokrum Island. This isle is a nature park complete with the medieval ruins of a Benedictine Monastery, a botanical garden, and rocky beaches where you can walk or just find a quiet spot to sit and take in the ocean vistas.

You enter the old town through Pile Gate, where you can obtain tourist information (open Mon–Sat 8 am to 8 pm and Sundays from 8 am to 3 pm). Here you can find maps of the city and get information on local buses.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Croatia

Typical Croatian souvenirs include gingerbread hearts (*licitar*), lavender oil, olive oil, and red coral jewelry (note that red coral is illegal import into the U.S. but allowed if in jewelry). Dry skin? Locals swear by the lanolin-based *Zagrebacki melem* ointment. Remember that the cravat was invented here, so be on the lookout for unusual and beautifully made neckties.

Montenegro

Popular Montenegrin souvenirs include homemade rakija (a brandy-esque drink produced in the Balkans), grape vinegar, peasant cheese, Yugoslav memorabilia, njeguški pršut (Montenegrin prosciutto), cat-centric souvenirs in Kotor, kapa (traditional men's cap), vranac wine, and brojanica (an Christian Orthodox prayer rope).

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia, you will find quality leatherware, shoes, woolens, brass coffee pots and lots of folk art. While in Sarajevo's old Bascarsija section, look for zvekir. These traditional brass and silver door knockers are a symbol of the city, and are meant to signify Bosnian hospitality.

Slovenia

Handicraft shops in Slovenia feature locally made ceramics, woolens, wood carvings, embroidery, tapestries, filigree jewelry, pumpkin seed oil, hand-painted beehive panels, honey brandy and handmade carpets. The fashion brands Sens and Akultura are popular, and for something more traditional, consider Idrija lace and Rogaska crystal.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, www.cbp.gov has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Croatia

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 21,851 square miles
- **Capital:** Zagreb
- **Government:** Presidential/parliamentary democracy
- **Language:** Croatian (Hrvatski), with Italian, German, and English also spoken by some.
- **Location:** Croatia is situated between the Pannonian Plain and the Adriatic Sea in southeastern Europe. Irregularities of its Adriatic coastline have created over 1,000 islands. The region in the north of Croatia is a highland area with a mountainous climate.
- **Geography:** Croatia is located in Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. The terrain of Croatia is geographically diverse; flat plains along Hungarian border, low mountains and highlands near Adriatic coast, coastline, and islands.
- **Population:** 3,878,981 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 79%, Orthodox 3.3%, other Christian 4.5%, Muslim 1.3%, other 1.8%, unspecified 3.8%, none 6.3%
- **Time Zone:** Croatia is on Central European Time, which is six hours ahead of U.S. EST. Daylight Saving Time is in effect from the last Sunday of March until the last Sunday of October.

National Holidays: Croatia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Croatia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Corpus Christi. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Epiphany

03/20 Bajram

04/05 Easter

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

05/30 Statehood Day

08/05 Homeland Thanksgiving Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/08 Independence Day

11/01 All Saints' Day

11/18 Remembrance Day

12/25 Christmas

12/26 St Stephen's Day

Croatia: A Brief History

Though Croatia defines itself along ethno-nationalist lines, the first Croat tribes did not arrive here until the 6th century. Little is known about them, but they were likely Slavic people from the marshlands of Ukraine who migrated to the Pannonian plains and Dalmatian coast.

The Croats came after the Illyrians, Greeks, Celts and Romans, who arrived in 11 BC and ruled for 500 years, expanding their colony from the Adriatic to the Danube. In the decades after the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 AD, the Croats began to move in, banding with other groups in a series of shifting allegiances, and organizing around powerful clans. When Charlemagne came in 800 AD, he Christianized the Dalmatian Croats. Though the Byzantine Empire held political power, the Christian Croats still looked to Rome for cultural and spiritual leadership—a connection that endures today, with most Croats identifying as devout Roman Catholics.

In 925 AD, Tomislav united the Dalmatian and Pannonian Croats, establishing a unified kingdom that included modern-day Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro. Venice invaded Dalmatia, but the Croat kingdom lasted until 1102, when it merged with the kingdom of Hungary. By the mid-1400s, under widespread Ottoman occupation, the Croatian Assembly invited the Hapsburgs to assume control. The Hapsburgs ousted the Turks by the 18th century. But the dream of an independent Croatia reawakened during the mid 1800s, as Europe was swept by a wave of romantic nationalism. This brought a flowering of Croatian language and art.

Following World War I and the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in 1918 the Kingdom of Serbia and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes united as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The Axis takeover of Yugoslavia during World War II gave power to Croatia's far-right Ustase party, which built eight concentration camps to exterminate hundreds of thousands of Jews, Roma, and Serbs. Antifascist resisters rose up, but many, the Serbian Chetniks among them, enacted massacres against the Croats, exacerbating political and ethnic tensions.

The most effective partisans were led by the communist Josip Broz (aka “Tito”), who forced the Nazi retreat and became the architect of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, established in 1944. Though initially aligned with Moscow, Tito openly critiqued Stalin and continually asserted Yugoslavia’s independence. In 1961, he founded the Non-Aligned Movement, positioning its members as serious bargaining partners between the Soviet and western blocs.

Tito was determined to create a state in which no ethnic group dominated, and where church and state were separated. It was a fragile balance he maintained through a one-party system that suppressed all opposition. When he died in 1980, old tensions among the six Yugoslav republics resumed. In 1989, with the fall of communism, Yugoslavia fell apart. In 1990, Croatian nationalist Franjo Tudjman was elected President, and a year later, Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia. Conflicts between Serbs and Croats escalated, and within a month, war broke out.

The United Nations mediated a cease-fire in 1992, but hostilities resumed the next year when Croatia tried to regain lost territories. Multiple offensives and cease-fires ensued until 1995, when Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian governments signed the Dayton Peace Agreement, committing to a permanent cease-fire, regional cooperation and further democratization. When President Tudjman died in 1999, the subsequent coalition government brought major changes. Since then, Serbs and Croats have maintained a stable, albeit wary peace. Croatia joined NATO in 2009, and since joining the EU in 2014, its economy, powered by tourism, has grown.

Montenegro

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 5,332 square miles
- **Capital:** Podgorica
- **Population:** 621,873 (estimate)
- **Languages:** Serbian 63.6%, Montenegrin (official) 22%, Bosnian 5.5%, Albanian 5.3%, unspecified 3.7%
- **Geography:** Montenegro is in Southeastern Europe, between the Adriatic Sea and Serbia. The country is only 13,812 sq km, which means it is roughly the same size as Connecticut, yet it borders on five countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, and Serbia. The country is mostly rugged high limestone mountains and plateaus that dip down to coastal plains.
- **Religions:** Orthodox 74.2%, Muslim 17.7%, Catholic 3.5%, other 0.6%, unspecified 4%
- **Time Zone:** Montenegro is on Central European Time, six hours ahead of Eastern Time. Summer hours operate from the last Sunday in March until the last weekend in October.

National Holidays: Montenegro

In addition to the holidays listed below, Montenegro celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Orthodox Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Orthodox Christmas Eve

01/07 Orthodox Christmas

01/08 Orthodox Christmas (Day 2)

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

05/02 Labor Day/May Day (Day 2)

05/21 Independence Day

05/22 Independence Day (Day 2)

07/13 Statehood Day

07/14 Statehood Day (Day 2)

Montenegro: A Brief History

Montenegro is only the size of Connecticut, but its status has changed seven times since World War II. This is nothing new, as Montenegro's entire history has been one of dynastic struggle, conquest, and shifting alliances—shot through with a continual quest for independence.

While Montenegro's history is intimately bound with that of its neighbors, there are many unique factors. The first people to settle here in the Bronze Age were Illyrians. Not much is known about them, but they were warlike seafarers who settled the southeastern Adriatic coast. Though Greeks and Celts had settlements here during the 6th and 7th centuries BC, in the 3rd century BC much of Montenegro was part of an indigenous, Illyrian kingdom.

When the Romans arrived in Dalmatia in 168 BC, they mounted expeditions against Illyrian pirates, annexed their lands, and incorporated Montenegro into their larger Illyrium province. But Montenegro was considered a backwater. Rugged and largely inaccessible, devoid of known riches or mineral wealth, it became a haven for various clans who had resisted Romanization.

Once the Slavs arrived in the 7th century, their rival chieftains engaged in shifting alliances, often with outside states like Bulgaria, Venice and Byzantium. The clans who settled around the former Roman hub of Doclea in Montenegro were Serbs, and their realm was called Duklja. Between 931 and 960, the chieftain Cerslav further unified a number of Serb tribes, operating from Zeta near the Gulf of Kotor. The rest of Montenegro's medieval history involved a succession of kingdoms that eventually became the Serbian principality of Zeta in the 14th century. By the late 15th century, Zeta was known as Montenegro, meaning "black mountain"—a reference to Mount Lovćen, the geographic and spiritual heart of the country.

Though Montenegro fell under Ottoman rule from the 14th to the 19th century, it managed to elude tight Ottoman control thanks to the resistance of its people, its rugged terrain, shrewd diplomacy, and the protection afforded to its prince-bishops by the Eastern Orthodox church. The country became an independent constitutional monarchy in 1852. During World War I, Montenegro fought with the Allies but was defeated by Austro-German forces. When King Nicholas fled, the country was annexed to Serbia, which in turn became part of the unified Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in 1918. In 1929, it was renamed Yugoslavia.

Montenegro's World War II history was quite different than its neighbors'. As Axis powers took over Yugoslavia, Italians occupied Montenegro in April, 1941. Three months later, Montenegrin communist partisans fomented Europe's first armed uprising against the Nazis. Some 32,000 Montenegrins succeeded in ousting the Italians. But by August, bolstered by 67,000 Italian troops redeployed from Albania, the Fascists returned. Still, Montenegrin partisans continued their resistance, despite internal schisms between the communist flank and the royalist Chetniks, who eventually collaborated with the Italians. Montenegro was finally liberated in 1944, when it became part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under Josip Broz Tito.

When the Yugoslav republic fell, Montenegro remained part of Serbia, and joined it in attacks against Dubrovnik in the 1991–1995 Bosnian and Croatian war. But in 1996, the new president Milo Dukanovic severed ties with Serbia, and the path to full independence was laid. In 2006, a referendum was narrowly passed declaring Montenegro a fully sovereign state. It became part of NATO in 2017, and aspires to full integration into the European Union by 2025.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 19,767 square miles
- **Capital:** Sarajevo
- **Language:** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- **Geography:** Bosnia (as the country is commonly known) is located in the western Balkans, bordering Croatia to the north and southwest, and Serbia and Montenegro to the east. The country is mostly mountainous, encompassing the central Dinaric Alps. The northeastern parts reach into the Pannonian basin, while in the south it almost borders the Adriatic. The country has only 12 miles of coastline, around the town of Neum in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, although it's enclosed within Croatian territory.
- **Population:** 3,867,055 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Roman Catholic 15%, other 14%
- **Time Zone:** Bosnia-Herzegovina is on Central European Time, which is six hours ahead of U.S. EST: when it's noon in New York, it's 6 pm in Sarajevo. Daylight Saving Time is in effect from the last Sunday of March until the last Sunday of October.

National Holidays: Bosnia and Herzegovina

In addition to the holidays listed below, Bosnia and Herzegovina celebrates a number of optional holidays, such as Orthodox Christmas, Orthodox Easter, and Ramadan. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit **www.timeanddate.com/holidays**.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 New Year's Day (observed)

02/18 Ramadan

03/01 Independence Day

03/20 Bajram

04/05 Easter

05/01 Labor Day

05/02 Labor Day (Day 2)

05/09 Victory Day

11/25 Statehood Day

Bosnia & Herzegovina: A Brief History

Mention Bosnia and Herzegovina, and most Americans will think of the land where some of the most horrific ethnic violence played out during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. It's an image that is hard to shake, even as you discover the nation's fairytale stone villages, idyllic valleys and ancient towns. Walk among the labyrinthine lanes of Sarajevo's old Bascarsija, the 16th-century Ottoman bazaar, and you may see "Sarajevo roses," petal-shaped craters left from mortar shelling. They've been filled with red resin as reminders of the suffering that once was.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is the most ethnically diverse of the former Yugoslav nations, with about 50% of the people identifying as Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), 31% as Bosnian Serbs (Orthodox), and 16% as Croats (Roman Catholic). The nation is surrounded by Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. But the cultural fault lines were laid long before those nations arose.

In the first century AD, the Romans conquered Illyrian Bosnia, and Christianity soon followed. By the 4th century, the region was aligned with Western Roman Empire, but that affiliation weakened when Goths overran the area. Under the Emperor Justinian, the region was reclaimed by the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, and neither the resident Slavic Croats nor the Slavic Serbs had a lock on power. Eventually, Bela II of Hungary invaded and created the so-called "Banate of Bosnia." Bosnia became virtually autonomous, and was declared a kingdom in 1377.

The Ottomans invaded in 1463. They introduced political, social and civic changes, and many locals converted to Islam. Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks) became the elite, but the society was secular and there was intermarriage among all religions. When the Ottoman Empire fell, the 1878 Congress of Berlin gave Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria-Hungary, enraging the Serbs. The hostility climaxed in 1914 when a Serbian nationalist assassinated the Austrian archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo—precipitating World War I. After the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which became Yugoslavia in 1929.

When the Nazis invaded Yugoslavia in 1941, they gave control of Bosnia to their puppet regime in Croatia, the Ustase government. The Ustase began a campaign of genocide that targeted Jews, Serbs, and Roma. Reprisals by Serbian partisans were similarly grisly, so by the war's end, both Croats and Serbs had more grievances to add to their lists. The new Yugoslav leader, Marshall Tito, kept things in check until he died in 1980. Then things began to unravel.

In a 1992 referendum, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence from what remained of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro.) This did not sit well with the Croatian or Serbian presidents, who'd planned to partition Bosnia between themselves. Inside Bosnia, the Serbian minority, bolstered by the Serbian army, took the offensive. The capital, Sarajevo was besieged for four years—longer even than the WWII Siege of Leningrad. The Serbs began a ruthless campaign of ethnic cleansing, and Bosnian Croats and Bosniaks also committed atrocities.

In 1995, the Bosnian Serb army (with support from Serbia) slaughtered 8,000 Bosniaks in the town of Srebrenica. UN troops had been ineffectual in preventing the genocide. Finally, NATO air strikes forced the Bosnian Serb army to its knees. A conference held in Dayton, Ohio, enacted a very fragile peace. Since 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been ruled by a coalition of three presidents from each of the three main ethnic groups. Relations with Croatia have improved, and for now, the possibility of accession to the European Union is spurring the country's commitment to economic and political reform.

Slovenia

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 7,827 square miles
- **Capital:** Ljubljana
- **Population:** 1,983,412 (estimate)
- **Languages:** Slovenian is the official language.
- **Religions:** Catholic 57.8%, Muslim 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, other Christian 0.9%, unaffiliated 3.5%, other or unspecified 23%, none 10.1%
- **Time Zone:** Slovenia is on Central European Time, six hours ahead of Eastern Time. Summer hours operate from the last Sunday in March until the last weekend in October.

National Holidays: Slovenia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Slovenia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Whit Sunday. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit **www.timeanddate.com/holidays**.

01/01 New Year's Day

02/08 Preseren Day

03/20 Bajram

04/05 Easter

04/27 Day of Uprising Against Occupation

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

06/25 Statehood Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/31 Reformation Day

11/01 Remembrance Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Independence and Unity Day

Slovenia: A Brief History

While Slovenia experienced many of the same historical events as its neighbors, its development diverged in several important ways. For one thing, we know a little more about the Bronze Age inhabitants who predated the Illyrians here: they were marsh dwellers who lived in huts on stilts south of present-day Ljubljana, trading along the Amber Route that linked the Balkans with the rest of Europe. By 400 BC, the Celts established the first political entity on Slovenian soil, the Noric kingdom. The Romans annexed this and brought Slovenia into its larger province, Illyrium.

As Rome declined, Slavs arrived and eventually joined with the Frankish kingdom to form the Duchy of Carantania. Charlemagne sealed the deal when he made Carantania a vassal state called Carinthia, and established Roman Catholicism as the state religion. This brought Slovenia into the fold of the Holy Roman Empire, and far from the sway of eastern Orthodoxy. By the 10th century, control of the Holy Roman Empire fell to German nobility. They replaced local Slovenian lords with German ones, reduced the peasants to serfs, and divided Slovenia into six provinces that remained intact until 1918: Carniola, Carinthia, Styria, Gorica and the White March.

Between the late 13th and early 16th century, almost all of Slovenia passed to the Hapsburgs, who improved the infrastructure, opened mines, and lifted the economy. But soon, Germanic domination of the political and cultural scene faced a challenge. Slovenia was never occupied by the Ottomans, but under the Hapsburgs, it had to fight many battles against the Turks. Slovenian peasants were required to pay for their own defenses, and also pay tribute to their feudal lords. Between the 14th and 19th centuries there were more than 100 Slovenian peasant revolts.

Another turning point came when the Protestant Reformation reached Slovenia at the end of the 16th century. Many Protestant reformers wrote their treatises in the vernacular, elevating the status of Slovenian language. An awakening of Slovenian identity had begun.

When the Hapsburg dynasty was dismantled after World War I, Slovenia joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. But much of Slovenia's land was ceded to Italy, Austria, and Hungary, and there was dissatisfaction with the government, which was dominated by Serbs. But when the Nazis invaded in 1941, a larger threat had to be dealt with. Communists and other left-wing

groups formed a Liberation Front. The people took up arms, and fought in the best-organized anti-Nazi resistance in Europe. The communist partisan leader, Josip Broz Tito, became the leader of the new Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

When Tito died in 1980, Slovenian dissatisfaction with the Serb-dominated government deepened. In 1987, a Slovenian magazine published an article calling for political pluralism, democracy, a market economy and more Slovenian independence, but stopped short of calling for secession. But Yugoslavia's new de facto leader, Serbia's Slobodan Milošević, resolved to put an end to it. Slovenia doubled down and in 1990, it voted to become an independent republic. The Yugoslav army marched on Slovenia, but after meeting with unexpected resistance, units of the federal army began disintegrating.

Since no territorial or ethnic issues were involved, the Yugoslav government agreed to a truce and finally withdrew in October 1991. Slovenia enacted its own constitution in December, and was recognized by the European Community in January, 1992. In May, 1992, it became the 176th member state of the United Nations, and in 2004, it joined the European Union.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

Former Yugoslavia

Black Lamb and Gray Falcon: A Journey Through Yugoslavia by Rebecca West (1941, Memoir/History) Widely considered a masterpiece, this memoir was written on the eve of World War II as Dame West embarked on a six-week journey through Yugoslavia. Her intent was “to show the past side by side with the present it created.” The landscape, history, cultures, religions, and politics are brilliantly observed.

Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends by Lonnie R. Johnson (1996, History) A panoramic history of Central Europe. Stands out from other history books about the region because the author compares the underlying similarities between the different countries instead of just dividing them into East (Soviet Bloc) and West.

The Balkans, a Short History by Mark Mazower (2002, History) Published in 2002, this book provides a concise survey of the region’s complex history and modern nation-building.

Balkan Ghosts by Robert D Kaplan (1993, History) Covers Balkan history from World War I to the 1990s. Recommended by our travelers as a good way to understand the divisions in the region.

The Impossible Country: A Journey through the Last Days of Yugoslavia by Brian Hall (1995, Travel Narrative) As Yugoslavia was deteriorating in the 1990s, the author was touring the region by bicycle, allowing him a unique chance to document the people, politics, and mood of the times.

Croatia

Girl at War by Sara Novic (2016, Fiction) Ana, a New York college student, flashes back to her childhood in the former Yugoslavia in 1991. As civil war descends, ten-year old Ana’s carefree existence dissolves in tragedy and she must become a child soldier. Later, even as she builds a seemingly normal new life in America, her war never ends. A moving meditation on family, identity, memory and redemption.

Chasing a Croatian Girl by Cody McClain Brown (2015, Memoir) An incisive and often hilarious journey into everyday Croatian culture. The author, an ex-pat American and professor of political science, marries a Croatian woman and struggles to understand his indomitable mother-in-law, endless coffees with friends and neighbors, and a vast catalog of quirky customs.

The Walnut Mansion by Miljenko Jergovic (2015, Fiction) A 97-year-old matriarch recalls five generations of her Yugoslav family—vividly drawn characters whose lives play out against the fall of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, two world wars, the rise of communism, and the dangers of war-torn Dubrovnik as one nation dissolves, and another emerges.

The Hired Man by Aminatta Forna (2014, Fiction) Well reviewed novel about a family of newcomers from England who renovate a farmhouse in the Croatian village of Gost, befriend a local handyman, and unwittingly dredge up secrets of the village's dark past.

Dubrovnik, A History by Robin Harris (2003, History) A scholarly but readable history of Dubrovnik from its origins in the 7th century, until the collapse of the Republic in 1808. Recommended for the history buff.

Montenegro

Montenegro, A Novel by Starling Lawrence (1997, Literature) Romance, intrigue, and the adventures of a reluctant British spy set in turn-of-the-century Montenegro.

The Black Mountain by Rex Stout (1954, Mystery) Part of the Nero Wolfe series, this book sees Nero leave his comfortable home in New York—something he rarely does—to follow leads in Montenegro.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway (2008, Fiction) This international bestseller tells the haunting tale of four people living in war-torn Sarajevo as their lives are upended, forcing them to explore the very meaning of humanity.

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks (2008, Fiction) Offered a coveted job to conserve a priceless book known as the Sarajevo Haggadah, rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins. By a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Between Mountains by Maggie Helwig (2004, Fiction) The lives of a Canadian war correspondent and a Serbian-Albanian translator intersect at a war crimes tribunal at The Hague.

Death and the Dervish by Mesa Selimovic (1966, Fiction) The sad tale set during the Ottoman rule in 18th-century Bosnia. Selimovic was a bestselling Bosnian Muslim author in the 1960s, this is considered a classic in Bosnia.

Slovenia

Slovenology: Living and Traveling in the World's Best Country by Noah Charney (2017, Memoir/Travel) A witty and wise guidebook from an American art historian. The title tells you something about his love for Slovenia's history, food and drink, sights, music and people.

I Saw Her That Night by Drago Jancar (2010, Fiction) Explores the disappearance of a young woman from Ljubljana during a turbulent period in that city's history, as told by five different people.

Forbidden Bread: A Memoir (2009, Memoir) A New York financial analyst leaves her home and job to marry her Slovenian poet-lover. As she struggles to understand her new family and Slovenia's complex history, language, traditions and old-fashioned sexism, Slovenia itself is being transformed. A love story with witty and worldly observations on the birth of a new nation.

Suggested Films & Videos

Croatia

The Diary of Diana B. (2019, Drama) This film follows the unique and heartbreaking story of humanitarian Diana Budisavljevic, who rescues thousands of children from the Utasha camps in Nazi-occupied Croatia during World War II. This historical piece combines dramatized reenactments with archival material and interviews with survivors to create a harrowing retelling of Diana's perilous efforts.

The Eighth Commissioner (2018, Comedy) Filmed on the Dalmatian coast islands of Brač, Hvar and Zlarin, this endearing film follows an arrogant politician whose career is derailed by scandal. Banished to a remote island with no telephone or internet, he is given the impossible task of organizing a local government. The islanders are as quirky as their incomprehensible dialect, and other residents include Italian smugglers, a Ukrainian porn star, and the previous Commissioner.

What is a Man Without a Mustache? (2005, Romantic Comedy) A Croatian guest worker suffers a fatal fall in Germany, and his widow Tatjana uses her settlement to purchase a hillside in an idyllic Dalmatian Coast village. Magical things happen, including Tatjana falling madly but inexplicably in love with the hapless village priest. A sunny romance with an even sunnier setting.

Harrison's Flowers (2000, Drama) This French film is about a *Newsweek* photojournalist who travels on his last assignment to Yugoslavia in 1991, during the Croatian War of Independence. He is presumed to be killed, but his wife (played by Andie MacDowell) searches for him through the war-torn landscapes and witnesses some of the horrors of the period. French with English subtitles.

Montenegro

Meet Me in Montenegro (2015, Romantic Comedy) This indie rom-com is a semi-autobiographical account of the two stars, who met on a train and ran off to Montenegro (here blissfully filmed) for a romantic seaside escape. They reunite by accident years later in Berlin, and the Montenegro mood is revived.

Coriolanus (2011, Drama) Ralph Fiennes stars in and directs Shakespeare's classic, here updated to modern times. Though it is set in a nominal "Rome," it feels very much like the war-torn Balkans, and was in fact shot there, mainly in Montenegro.

Force 10 from Navarone (1978, Drama) Shot 18 years after the WWII epic *The Guns of Navarone*, this sequel sees three of the Allied heroes (Harrison Ford, Robert Shaw, and Edward Fox) dispatched to Yugoslavia to destroy a bridge and dam that are crucial to Nazi aims. Most of the film was shot in Montenegro, and the actual bridge used for pivotal scenes was indeed blown up in 1942 by one of its engineers to stop the invading Italian army.

When Father Was Away on Business (1985, Comedy/Drama) An Oscar-nominee for Best Foreign Film, this darkly comic tale unfolds in the 1950s, after Tito broke with Stalin and instituted harsh reprisals against any dissenters. A careless political joke, years of philandering and a lover's vengeance all come crashing down on Mesa, who is carted off to a work camp. But six year-old Malik is told simply that his father is away on business. When Dad returns, Malik learns exactly what that business was about.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Real Men Don't Cry (2017, Drama) Onetime combatants, a group of now middle-aged Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks, reluctantly gather at a Bosnian hotel for an extended group therapy session. None of these macho men want to talk, but all of them need the money they've been paid to attend. In session and in their free time, the remnants of their lives come pouring out in unexpected ways. A powerful commentary on masculinity, war and the post-traumatic stress that a significant proportion of the region's population still battles with.

Slovenia

Good to Go (2012, Comedy/Drama) A weary, disillusioned music teacher in his late 70s decides to retire—not just from his job, but from living. He buys a cemetery plot and moves into a retirement home. But once there, surprising turns make him rethink his decision, and his life.

Cheese and Jam (2004, Comedy) Lovely Slovenian Spela decides to leave her beer-drinking, jobless Bosnian husband, Bozo. Desperate to keep her, Bozo takes a job smuggling illegal immigrants, and things go wildly wrong. A black comedy about stereotypes, village life, and love.

No Man's Land (2002, Comedy/Drama) Filmed in Slovenia, this allegorical look at the Balkan War won the 2002 Golden Globes and the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Two soldiers, one Bosnian, one Serb, find themselves facing off in a trench in no man's land. Insults and concessions ensue until a third soldier awakens nearby, but cannot move as he is sitting above a bouncing mine. The men forge a truce as they try to get help, and to find common ground.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

www.oattravel.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/
plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security

Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps or Maps.me

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber or Bolt or Grab

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App or Skype or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo or FLuentU or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

TripWhistle

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Chirpey

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